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Soviet Union

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CSCE/MBFR

WEST PERSISTS IN PROLONGING MBFR TALKS TO GET 'FREE HAND'

LD181936Y Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Just over is the 16th round of the talks on reducing armed forces and arms in central Europe. This is the subject examined today by the news analyst Sergey Losev, and here is what he writes: The speech made by American chief delegate Dean at the final plenary meeting in Vienna's Hofburg Palace confirmed that the West persists in dragging out these talks in a bid to attain a free hand for its NATO arms buildup. Earlier this year, on 8 June, the socialist countries had made important proposals at these talks. These proposals had held out considerable promise of bringing about a mutually acceptable agreement, but to this day there has been no response to them, despite the half-year period that has elapsed.

During the 16th round of the talks the socialist countries made yet another substantial move to facilitate progress at the talks. They added important new points to their previous proposal on not increasing the armed strength of the parties during the negotiations. The socialist countries agreed to have a freeze on the numerical strength of the troops in central Europe apply not to the armies or the individual countries participating in the talks--to which the West had objected--but to the overall strength of the NATO forces on the one hand and the Warsaw Treaty forces on the other. But the Western delegations rejected this iniative too. Let me also remind you that Canada and the West European NATO members, above all Federal Germany, also still refuse to state what troop reductions each of them is prepared to make. The proposals made by the socialist countries in June stipulate that the numerical strength of the NATO and Warsaw Treaty armed forces should be reduced to the same ceilings: 900,000 men each, 700,000 of them in the ground forces. But the Western powers have demanded asymmetric cuts, much bigger cuts by the socialist countries. In fact, they want the socialist countries to make almost three times greater cuts in ground forces, and this despite the practical parity of forces in central Europe evident from the official figures submitted by the two parties. Obviously there can be no justification for such an unreasonable demand, and the West is not even trying to offer one. That is why NATO resorts to the false allegation that the Warsaw Treaty countries have 15,000 more troops than do the NATO countries. But such fabrications can scarcely serve as a valid argument.

As the chief Soviet delegate Tarasov pointed out, at no point during the 16th round did the West in any way revise its negative position or make a single step toward a compromise. Let me add to this that the Western powers flatly refuse to reduce their air forces and object even to limiting air force personnel to their present numbers. Yet at this month's meetings of the NATO Defense Planning Committee and the NATO Council in Brussels the Western militarists spoke of a danger they discern in the stockpiling in the European theater of medium-range nuclear missiles, that is, the grey zone arms not covered by the current arms limitation talks.

In the declaration of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty states it is said that there is no type of arms that the socialist nations wouldn't be prepared to limit or reduce. But this can be done only on the basis of strict observance of the principle of undiminished security for either party on the principle of equivalent and reciprocal undertakings by all parties. These principles mean that the problem of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe cannot be divorced from the problem of the American bases and air forces in Europe and on ships of the 6th Fleet--forces which are spearheaded against the socialist community. The Soviet Union made this clear during the Soviet-American arms limitation talks in Moscow in March last year. For its part, the Soviet Union is doing everything to achieve marked progress in military relaxation in Europe. What is needed is for the Western powers to clear away the obstacles to a mutually acceptable agreement at the Vienna talks. The basis for such agreement undoubtedly exists.

PRESS REPORTS ON SPEECHES AT THEORETICAL CONFERENCE

15 Dec PRAVDA

LD191041Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Special correspondent report: "Under the Sign of International Solidarity"]

[Excerpts] Sofia, 14 December--The international theoretical conference "Building Socialism and Communism and World Development" is continuing its work here. The conference participants are exchanging experience in the struggle for peace and social progress. They are focusing attention on analyzing the most pressing political problems of today, filling this analysis with deep general theoretical content.

Yesterday the conference was addressed by: V. Bilak, Presidium member and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee; A. Maidana, first secretary of the Communist Party of Paraguay Central Committee; G. Hall, general secretary of the U.S. Communist Party; D. Popescu, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee; R. Arismendi, first secretary of the Communist Party of Uruguay Central Committee; M. Rahman, secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Central Committee; M. Rossi, representative of the Italian Communist Party; M. Ovari, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee; A. Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party; and S. Vieira, member of the Mozambique Liberation Front Central Committee.

In the course of lively, frank discussions at plenums and in sections, a creative approach to the most important phenomena of the modern world and the concrete tasks being resolved by various detachments of the world revolutionary movement is being clearly manifested. The Romanian representative's speech sounded a note clearly discordant with the general tone of the conference. Repeating the RCP's known positions, he expressed a clear underestimation of the danger of war emanating from imperialism, declared criticism of any "one country's" position to be inadmissible, and called the need to coordinate the actions of the world's communists an "anachronism." This question was illuminated from different positions in the speeches of other parties' representatives. Thus, the speakers noted a certain deterioration in the international situation. G. Hall, general secretary of the U.S. Communist Party, revealed in detail in his report the reason for the intensified subversive activity by imperialist forces that has recently been observed. Noting that in the United States there is no sphere of economic, ultural or political life which is not affected by the general crisis of capitalism, the speaker said that all U.S. imperialism's efforts are aimed at slowing, halting and reversing the inexorably developing world revolutionary process. No illusions must be entertained regarding imperialism's aims, G. Hall stressed. The existence of socialism is a counterweight to the imperialist policy of war and aggression, its desire for world economic dominance, and its policy of racism.

V. Bilak, Presidium member and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, noted that international reaction is exerting the greatest efforts to blacken above all the Soviet Union, the tremendous responsibility with which the USSR approaches international problems, and the deep internationalism that permeates all its initiatives and actions. The Soviet Union bears on its shoulders the greatest weight of commitments associated with defending socialism and peace. The Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee made a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the present stage of world development and put forward proposals and assessments containing a powerful stimulus for the further development of political detente and profound cooperation among all European and other countries and for the stepping up of the people's struggle for national and social liberation.

To support and propagandize these proposals, V. Bilak stated, is to wage the struggle for the genuinely vital interests of people, of all the world's people.

Many speeches provided a detailed theoretical substantiation of theses on the need to further strengthen the unity and cohesion of communists and all forces of peace and social progress. Here particular significance is attached to strengthening collaboration between the communist parties of socialist countries and communist parties fighting in the non-socialist part of the world.

Closing Session

LD181629Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Unnamed PRAVDA special correspondent dispatch: "Rostrum of Creative Thinking. International Theoretical Conference Ends"]

[Excerpts] Sofia, 15 December-- The international theoretical conference on "The Building of Socialism and Communism and World Development" ended here today. For 4 days prominent representatives from different detachments of the world revolutionary movement exchanged experience and discussed the urgent problems of our time. About 60 speeches were heard at the plenums. Lively and principled discussion of the main aspects of the conference theme took place in three sections: "socialism and world development," "The socialist countries' international policy and role in strengthening detente and peace" and "the socialist countries and the problems of strengthening the solidarity of revolutionary forces."

The conference participants noted that the communists' duty is to tell people the truth about real socialism and its achievements in every sphere of life. Those who fall under the influence of the anti-Soviet slander campaigns sow pessimism and nihilism and deprive people of faith in a better future.

Socialism is a dynamic society. Its development involves problems, difficulties and contraditions, and they must also be mentioned. "In the propaganda of real socialism unctuous eulogies and Christmas trees are unnecessary," noted A. Lilov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee. "It is the truth that is needed. Real socialism must be shown as it is, historical achievements must be spoken of with dignity and pride, its as yet unresolved problems or shortcomings must be spoken of with courage and realism, and the prospects for its further development and improvement must be spoken of with confidence and optimism."

The speeches of those taking part in the conference showed graphically the creative nature of the activity of the socialist countries' communist parties and their ability to apply the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism under the specific conditions of their own countries.

The crux of the matter, Lilov said, by no means comes down to whether different countries' paths to socialism are the same, nor to the impossibility of building socialist society from readymade "recipes", still less to the right of each communist party to self-sufficiency. The paths to socialism can be different and, as real social practice shows, they are different. In the USSR the principles and laws of scientific socialism and the natural laws of the socialist social system are being implemented in specific practice for the first time in mankind's history, Lilov said. [paragraph continues]

Not a single country can build socialism--if we are really talking about socialism--without studying the experience of the first socialist society.

Now that the ideological struggle has been sharply exacerbated and massive propaganda campaigns are being mounted against real socialism and various forces--from imperialists to Maoists--are coming together in these campaigns, it is particularly necessary, the conference participants stressed, to improve the standard of theoretical and ideological work.

The idea was asserted from the conference rostrum that Marxism-Leninism is the theory of the revolutionary restructuring of the world. It substantiates the struggle aimed at putting an end to exploitation, social injustice and inequality and at creating the new, socialist society.

Ponomarev Comments on Conference

LD161800Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Dec 78 LD

[Interview by Boris Ponomarev, head of the CPSU delegation to international theoretical conference "The Building of Socialism and Communism and World Development," candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and secretary of the Central Committee to Moscow television and radio--recorded; date not given]

[Text] The Sofia conference was a major event in the life of the international communist movement and in the ideological-political life of the modern world. It has already evoked a wide response from world public opinion. The conference was attended by 73 communist and workers parties. Prominent officials of the fraternal parties took part, including 21 general and first secretaries of Central Committees, 40 Politburo members and many members of party Central Committees. The conference discussed what may well be called the "problem of problems" of our time; for without a comprehensive account of the role and place of real socialism we cannot solve a single important question of today. Nor can we solve the questions on which the future depends--the destinies of the peoples and the settling of the important issues of war and peace.

The conference met at a time when there has been a considerable exacerbation of the ideological struggle in the international arena. The forces of the old world, and imperialist propaganda, have mounted an anticommunist, anti-Soviet campaign, using impermissible and highly slanderous methods. But at this time the voice of communists from all countries has been heard--the voice of truth, the voice of justice, the voice of those who fight for the interests of the working class and the interests of all working people. The communists have raised high the banner of the struggle for the peoples' peace and security, against the uncontrolled arms race that the ruling circles of the West want. [Ponomarev corrects himself] --do not want to stop. Moreover, the source of this danger of war has been convincingly revealed by facts: It is imperialism, the military-industrial complex, and the belligerent forces in the capitalist zone of the world. In complete unanimity, the conference participants noted the role of the Soviet Union and the socialist community--that is real socialism--as a key factor in favour of peace and detente. Likewise, they noted the significance of the socialist states' foreign policy as an effective means of defending world civilization and all mankind from the threat of thermonuclear war. Our party's line in these matters is well known: To do all we can to stop the arms race. As Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has said, we must do all we can to strengthen the peace and security of peoples. In this we see the cardinal tasks of our foreign policy.

We voiced a powerful call at the conference for an end to the arms race, for strengthening detente, for a completion of the SALT talks and the talks on reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. The need to abolish the hotbeds caused by the threat of war in the Near East and southern Africa was reaffirmed. The conference sharply condemned the imperialist policy designed to exacerbate the situation and wreck detente. Many of the speeches exposed the position of the Chinese leadership, which is playing up to, and helping, that ominous line. The conference came to the conclusion that, in order to achieve success in the important battle for peace, we need to close the ranks of all anti-imperialist and peaceloving forces, and primarily those of the international communist movement.

Uniting the forces of real socialism, of the working class movement of the capitalist countries and of the national liberation movement--this is what constitutes the focus of attention at the conference. The representatives of the communist and workers parties highly appraised the work of the Soviet Union, the CPSU and its Central Committee, led by the outstanding fighter for peace and socialism Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. Real socialism--the Soviet Union and the socialist community--is our bulwark and hope and the source of light that inspires and helps us every day and every hour. This is what the representatives of the fraternal parties said at the conference.

At the same time, the communists from the capitalist states spoke of the enormous pressure being brought to bear by the bourgeois propaganda machine on the minds of the working people in their zone of the world. All this must be resisted--and we are resisting it--the more so since we have such friends and allies as real socialism, which gives us enormous help in the day-to-day struggle. As a whole, the conference vividly revealed the huge reserve of creative strength of the inexhaustible potential of Marxist-Leninist theory and its ability to answer the most difficult problems of our time. Cooperation among the communist parties in such forms as this conference is useful and fruitful. It promotes the strengthening of the international communist movement on the principled basis of Marxism-Leninism. It is very important that the ideas of the conference be widely disseminated in all countries. This will help our success in solving the historic tasks of the struggle for democracy, national independence, peace and socialism.

TRUE DISARMAMENT ONLY POSSIBLE ON A MUTUAL BASIS

LD152240Y Moscow in Romanian to Romania 1600 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The results of the recent Moscow meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee continue to be at the center of world public opinion. The Moscow declaration once more proves that the socialist community is the foremost contemporary force capable of offering the world a multilateral strategy of peace. Our commentator Vyacheslav Perikhov writes:

This strategy is seen in the consistent activity by the fraternal countries on reorganizing international relations. It is enough to look back at last year's events to realize how great the importance of the joint, coordinated international actions of the fraternal socialist countries. Precisely because of their untiring activities--and this is not questioned by anyone--there was a turn from cold war to detente and the political climate in Europe improved. At the moment, the main trend in European life consists in actively seeking ways toward mutual understanding and peaceful cooperation.

In the past 10 years, agreements covering many fields have been concluded: Political, trade and economic contacts have been livened up considerably. In treaties signed by the Soviet Union, Poland, the GDR and Czechoslovakia with the FRG, the realities existing in the continent are acknowledged. The European Conference on Security and Cooperation, convened at the proposal of the Warsaw Pact countries, was organized and concluded successfully. The socialist countries pay great attention to activities contributing to security. This is shown by the rigorous and conscientious observation of the Final Act of the European conference that is contained in the decisions of the congresses of the fraternal communist parties. It is expressed there and successfully implemented through their joint efforts.

The socialist countries are authors of many treaties and declarations that are aimed at improving relations between countries with differing social systems; they have signed dozens of agreements that concretely consolidate the principles of the Final Act of the European conference.

All this has already resulted in a considerable lessening of the danger of war. Important steps toward disarmament have been taken. At the moment, the task is to consolidate these changes for the better and proceed further from this basis.

The Warsaw Pact countries said they were willing to hold talks on all aspects of the problem of ending the arms race, including those which have not yet been discussed. The fraternal countries also call for the elimination of nuclear weapons from all arsenals. It is also necessary to mention that the initiatives taken by the socialist states on consolidating peace do not only concern Europe. Proof of this is in the declaration by six socialist countries regarding the Middle East situation. One could also mention a number of proposals on consolidating security in Asia, and so on.

Each step toward achieving these lofty aims is taken laboriously because the enemies of peace, imperialist forces and their allies in Peking try to prevent it through all means.

The decisions taken in Washington by the NATO Council are in sharp contrast with those of the Moscow meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee. Some countries, such as those belonging to NATO, proclaimed the line of increasing arms production in an attempt to obtain a longer and sharper sword, as pointed out by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, in order to go back to the positions of strength policy. Other countries, the socialist ones, adopted a declaration that represents a concrete program of practical measures whose implementation would lead to a genuinely peaceful Europe.

It is absolutely clear that in these circumstances it would be wrong and even dangerous to consider the danger of war as completely removed. As long as there is imperialism and forces interested in waging wars, the socialist countries must remain permanently vigilant and strengthen their defense potential. The transition to disarmament can only be made mutually. This stand of the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries is mirrored in the recent decisions taken by the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee.

SOVIET REACTION TO NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-PRC RELATIONS

PRAVDA Rejoinder on Decision

LD190748Y Moscow TASS in English 0733 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

["PRAVDA: Concerning Normalisation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, December 19, TASS--Under the heading "Concerning Normalisation", PRAVDA today carries the following rejoinder by M. Georgiyev:

Washington and Peking announced the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the United States and China. This, bluntly speaking, retarded act by the United States followed as a result of changes in the orientation of the Peking leadership, which had embarked upon a road of open antagonism against the world of socialism and alliance with the most bellicose Western quarters.

In connection with the establishment of diplomatic relations with the PRC, U.S. President Carter said at a White House briefing that the USSR and others were well aware--following U.S. confidential explanations, made not only of late but also in recent months, that the U.S. did not want by any means to use its new mutual relations with China to the detriment of the USSR or anyone else.

Of course, this is a very important statement. And time will show if these words accord with practical deeds and political actions. But already today it is a noteworthy fact that Peking is in no hurry to accept the American interpretation of the accomplished event. On the contrary, there are many press pronouncements and official statements of Chinese leaders there, whose meaning consists in an open invitation to the Western countries to set up a broad united front of struggle against the Soviet Union, and in urgent calls to increase economic and military aid to China. All this goes to show that Peking concentrates its energy on undermining the cause of peace and security of the peoples, undermining detente.

Analysing the document on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the PRC, the New York TIMES says that Peking made a serious concession on the question of Taiwan for the sake of speeding up relations with the United States. Zibigniew Brzezinski, the U.S. President's assistant, in this context regards the thought on the forcible liberation of Taiwan as less and less likely.

As for the Soviet Union, its stand on this issue has been and remains unchanged: Taiwan is legal part of the territory of China, and the question of Taiwan is an internal matter of China.

Establishing diplomatic relations, the United States and China declared that they did not recognize hegemony in Asia and other regions of the world.

China, however, ever more distinctly demonstrates its special foreign political course, regarding the Soviet Union as the main enemy... the organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Japan, AKAHATA, says. With this object in view the newspaper goes on to say, Peking not only approved of such dangerous military alliances as the Japanese-American security treaty and NATO, but also calls for their strengthening.

The Indian newspaper PATRIOT says that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the PRC is nothing but the legal confirmation of a collusion between Washington and Peking throughout recent years. This alliance is spearheaded against the national liberation movements, is designed to support reactionary regimes and the organization of more intrigues against the socialist countries.

We must be wary of Peking's decision to enlist Western support for its hegemonistic plans. This refers particularly to the unusual interest now evinced in some Western countries for Chinese orders of weaponry and technology, the readiness to satisfy Peking's big military appetite. Attempts are often made to explain this either by possible profits from arms sales to China or by the desire to draw China into the family of nations of the world community. But do the Western arms merchants bear in mind that to facilitate faster modernization of the Chinese military machinery is a dangerous play with fire. Today, China conducts subversive activities against neighbouring countries. Tomorrow, it may not spare its present patrons.

Kosovan Remarks

LD181140Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program with Valeriy Kosovan]

[Text] Here is a cable concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations between Washington and Peking. A representative of the U.S. Defense Department, it says, has stated that there is no threat to Taiwan from China as a result of this action. China, he said, has no intention to annex Taiwan forcibly, and even if it did, it would not be able to do so.

As has already been reported, the United States agreed to revoke its mutual defense treaty with the fascist regime of Taiwan by the end of 1979. Chinese authorities have of late stopped talking of their holy duty to liberate Taiwan, and they even speak of reaching a settlement with the fascists on the basis of preserving a capitalist system on the island. This was mentioned recently by Teng Hsiao-ping, vice premier of the PRC State Council. It is not surprising that after such assurances Washington has decided to recognize the present Chinese regime. For until now, the Taiwan problem seriously complicated the normalization of Sino-American relations.

Observations by Shalygin

LD181452Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Yuriy Shalygin commentary]

[Text] It has been announced in Washington that the United States and China have agreed to establish diplomatic relations as of January 1st next year and exchange ambassadors in 3 months. Here is comment from our observer Yuriy Shalygin:

From the viewpoint of normal diplomatic relations this is a natural and even rather belated step. For almost 30 years Washington has not recognized the Chinese People's Republic, identifying the Taiwan regime with China. Now it looks as if the United States is turning to face the realities. It is important, though, which Chinese realities are being drawn attention to in Washington, and not only there, but also in the top bodies of NATO.

The recent Atlantic week and numerous publications in the American and West European press provide a quite definite picture. Importance is attached to Peking's acute hostility to the relaxation of tension, to its military preparations, the anti-Soviet trend of the policy of Chinese leadership.

The Washington POST quotes Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping as saying that Peking is making energetic efforts not only to establish diplomatic relations with the United States but also to create strong Sino-American alliance against Moscow and this perfectly suits American reactionary circles, coming out against the normalization of Soviet-American relations.

The NATO headquarters regard Peking as a natural ally of the North Atlantic bloc--its branch in the east, so to say, and this too suits the imperialists, who have an ambition to divide the world into blocs opposed to each other and not let the Asian nations live according to their own will.

A quite proper assessment of Peking's actions has been given by the New York TIMES. In its opinion, Peking, which is provoking a conflict with Vietnam, is approximately in the same position in Indochina in which the United States was in its time. What this recent United States role was is common knowledge. And for this reason the idea of creating a tripartite military and political alliance of the United States, Japan and China cannot but arouse anxiety. According to the Western press, this bloc is planned to be built on the basis of the existing American-Japanese security treaty, the Sino-Japanese Treaty on Peace and Friendship and a Sino-American treaty being designed under the same false cover. This is how far the lovers to play China's card [as heard] are going to now. The normalization of Sino-American relations along their lines is fraught with grave danger to peace in Asia and elsewhere.

Comments on Brzezinski Remarks

LD190006Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Boris Andrianov]

[Text] The foreign press continues to comment on the report that the United States and the PRC have agreed to recognize each other and to establish diplomatic relations on 1 January 1979. It has been announced in Washington at the same time that on 1 January the United States will inform Taiwan that it is ceasing diplomatic relations with it and renouncing the mutual defense treaty. However, as the White House has explained, the U.S.-Taiwan treaty on mutual security will remain in force throughout next year.

On the question of U.S.-PRC relations, Zbigniew Brzezinski, assistant to the U.S. President for national security affairs and well-known as one of the creators of U.S. policy toward the PRC, stated in a TIME magazine interview that the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the PRC should not be seen as a measure directed against the Soviet Union, and that there is--in his words--no essential incompatibility in improving relations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the one hand, and the United States and Peking on the other.

Well, evidently only the future will show how far Zbigniew Brzezinski's words are confirmed by the specific deeds of U.S. policy. Meanwhile, we cannot pass over some facts which have come to our attention. These are the NATO countries' plans to supply arms to the PRC and to grant it access to the most up-to-date Western technology, particularly in the military field.

Some people in the West try to explain this policy in terms of the good business to be had from arms sales to Peking. Others talk of the necessity of drawing the PRC into the European Economic Community.

But the essence of the matter is that Peking continues to pursue a militaristic policy directed principally against the socialist countries. This is sufficiently well evidenced by its hostile acts against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Peking is pursuing a policy of hegemonism, eloquently demonstrated by its crude interference in the affairs of other states, its support for pro-Peking forces in Indonesia, Burma and other Asian countries. In these conditions, it would of course be naive to look upon the question of arms sales to the PRC as a commercial one, of profits for the arms suppliers. This is a question which is closely connected with the interests of peace and the strengthening of the security of peoples.

Shishlin Commentary

LD182010Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Nikolay Shishlin commentary]

[Text] As has already been reported, the United States and China have agreed to establish diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors. At the microphone is international journalist Nikolay Shishlin:

It must be said that things have long been moving toward the normalization of relations between the United States and China. But now this normalization is in effect already an accomplished fact. The event itself aroused rather widely varying reactions around the world. On the one hand it is taken as a natural process, a natural step in the relations between these major countries. But many people draw attention to the blatant anti-Sovietism of the Chinese leaders and pose the question: Is it not this very anti-Sovietism which has been the midwife to the newborn normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations?

In the United States responsible statesmen, including President Carter, stress that this is not directed against third countries and note that it unconditionally does not contain any anti-Soviet implications. In Peking, while proclaiming that the normalization will serve the interests of peace, at the same time they consider it necessary to repeat the well-worn thesis of the need for struggle against hegemonism, great and small. The interpretation placed on this concept by the Peking leaders is sufficiently well known. It is decoded in the direct actions of Peking foreign policy, particularly in Southeast Asia.

It can obviously be reckoned that the Chinese leadership is not adverse to the calculation that the normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations will give it a certain freedom of action to further advance its expansionist plans. But here, of course, one ought to note that there is a great gap in these calculations. The policy of exerting pressure by force, the policy of blackmail and expansion has no serious prospects. In present-day conditions, with the contemporary balance of forces, the future undoubtedly lies with the policy of detente, the policy of arranging peaceful, neighborly relations between all countries. That is, the future lies with the line which was quite recently outlined so clearly by the conclusions of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee conference.

'Problems' Regarding Ties

OW190553Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 18 Dec 78 OW

[Station commentator Mitin commentary: "Problems With Regard to the Establishment of Sino-U.S. Diplomatic Ties"]

[Text] In recent years people have often said it would not be long before complete normalization of Sino-U.S. relations, despite the fact the issue was deadlocked for a time. However, not long ago Teng Hsiao-ping told a reporter that the Peking leading clique was not opposed to efforts to maintain the existing exploitation system in Taiwan, if this would pave the way for establishment of Sino-U.S. diplomatic relations. While this is not something new in principle, people in Peking had never before said anything along those lines. Naturally people in Washington were satisfied with Teng's remarks. U.S. newspapers and journals published the news about the Chinese leaders' eagerness to do anything possible as long as it would lead to replacing the liaison offices in Washington and Peking with embassies.

Now things are clear. The day before yesterday China and the United States simultaneously announced that as of New Year's Day 1979, the two countries would establish full diplomatic relations.

What do we think of this event? Generally speaking, normalization of relations between two states is good, and should contribute to improving the international situation and consolidating peace. For example, when the Soviet Union and the United States normalized their relations in 1933, all the world's communists and progressive forces, including those in China, unanimously regarded this event as an important step according with the interests of socialism and the principle of peaceful coexistence.

However, can we regard the present normalization of Sino-U.S. relations as a contribution to improving the international climate and as something conforming to the interests of socialism? Please judge for yourself! People in Washington regard their ties with the Peking clique as a part of the so-called "Chinese card". In other words, the U.S. reactionaries seek to use the policy pursued in Chungnanhai as a reliable force to oppose world socialist strength led by the Soviet Union and to struggle against the national liberation movement. Now Washington has officially recognized the Peking regime. This is in essence a Washington reward to Peking for the Chinese leaders' efforts to peddle anti-Sovietism and for their sabotage against the socialist nations and their policies.

What was the ruling clique in Peking waiting for over the past few years? Why did China and the United States decide to normalize their relations now? First of all, the decision was made because the PRC leaders remained unresolved about the question of Taiwan. They continued to rant about liberating Taiwan. Secondly, not all people were clear about the Peking leaders' stand toward the United States. While Mao Tse-tung was alive, and for a long time after his death, the Chinese regarded the United States--a first world superpower--as the target of struggle for the peoples in various world countries. This situation puzzled many U.S. reactionaries. They did not know what to do. When the PEOPLE'S DAILY editorial department issued an article on October 1977 on the "Theory of the Differentiation of the Three Worlds," U.S. newspapers still were of the opinion that the United States should adopt a prudent attitude toward China because, although Peking flayed the Soviet Union, it also regarded the United States as its enemy.

However, things changed soon after that. Two weeks after PEOPLE'S DAILY published the "three worlds" article, Teng Hsiao-ping hurriedly clarified this misunderstanding. Highlighting his long-cherished dream of rigging up an anti-Soviet united front in the world arena, he said that efforts must be made to drag the United States--a nation in the first world--into this united front. A few days ago, Teng Hsiao-ping made this even more clear in talking to Washington POST reporter Novak. He directly called for efforts to establish a Sino-U.S. alliance so as to wage a joint struggle against the Soviet Union. Here we would like to mention the fact--noted by foreign observers--when Teng Hsiao-ping spoke of this anti-Soviet united front,he did not even bother to disguise his stand with pseudo-revolutionary phrases. In fact, he showed no personal hesitation in speaking this way. As U.S. newspapers and journals pointed out, he used straightforward language that his U.S. partners fully understood.

Teng Hsiao-ping's frankness was entirely different from the uncompromising attitude adopted by the Peking leaders a few years ago. It is conceivable that this frankness has wiped out American leaders' doubts. In addition, the Chinese leaders have insinuated even more clearly that they have no intention of preventing the U.S. monopoly clique from strengthening management of its enterprises in the PRC on the basis of capitalist laws. Not long ago President Patterson of the U.S. Ford Motor Company said: My company has no intention of setting up any enterprise that would be placed under Chinese control after it went into operation because this would not do us any good. We will set up motor assembly plants profitable to us. We have reached mutual understanding with the Chinese regime in this regard.

Normalization of Sino-U.S. relations will naturally provide better conditions for such activities by U.S. capitalists. It is conceivable that people in Washington have also considered this.

It should be pointed out that by quickening the tempo of normalizing Sino-U.S. relations, the Chinese leaders have essentially lifted their taboo on U.S. shipment of military supplies to Taiwan even after establishment of Sino-U.S. ties. The White House spokesman said to reporters that if required, the United States will, in the future, provide Taiwan with military supplies.

Increased Danger to Peace

LD181948Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1330 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Vasily Fedorov commentary]

[Text] Peking and Washington have already published a communique saying that China and the United States are going to establish diplomatic relations as of the 1st January next. President Carter of the United States and Chairman Hua Kuo-feng of China have made statements to that effect. The American President described the decision in bright colors. He said it served universal peace and will not in the least harm relations with other countries. Hua Kuo-feng, in a talk with journalists in Peking, took a somewhat different stand. Our commentator, Vasiliy Fedorov, writes:

Hua Kuo-feng made it clear enough what aims Peking pursues in its rapprochement with the United States, other Western countries and Japan. He spoke of the common interests of those countries in the struggle against the so-called hegemonism, not only global hegemonism (?as such), a clear reference to the Soviet Union, but regional as well, a reference to Vietnam. In other words, Peking seeks to carry through its ideas of worldwide fight against socialism while the Western press is clamoring about a stronger universal peace. Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping earlier this year put forward a plan with China and Japan threatening the Soviet Union from the East, whereas the United States and its NATO partners do the same from the West.

The Teng Hsiao-ping idea prompted the American hawks to call China NATO's east flank, to the great joy in Peking. The latter saw that the imperialists had risen to the bait. In fact, the West expressed its readiness to offer China a free hand in relations to its southern neighbors. In return, the imperialists got Peking's promise of aid in the struggle against socialism. To bear out this view, China has of late stepped up its aggressive acts against Socialist Vietnam, while the West is completing preparations to sell arms to China. It was not entirely accidental that British Conservatives, right after the news about the forthcoming normalization between Washington and Peking, began to talk about China having shown itself as a friend of America and the West as a whole. Therefore, there can be no objection, they say, to arms sales to China.

The U.S.-China rapprochement increases the danger to peace in Asia also because it improves the position of U.S. troops in the western Pacific, commented the Washington POST yesterday. The newspaper is certainly right inasmuch as the Chinese leaders welcome the American presence in that region and support the existing imperialist military alliances there. This is a real threat indeed and no enunciations about (?new) ways to a stronger peace can make it less ominous.

GENERAL

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION--QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS'

LD152214Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1239 GMT 15 Dec 78 LD

["International Situation--Questions and Answers" program presented by Moscow Radio commentator Valeriy Kosovan, with Foreign Ministry official Vsevolod Nikolayevich Sofinskiy; IZVESTIYA observer Nikolay Petrovich Khokhlov; and political observer Kovalev--recorded]

[Excerpts] Hello, respected comrades; in analyzing the mail we have decided on the following topics to today's program: the Egyptian-Israeli separate treaty, the results of the so-called elections in Namibia, the internal political situation in Portugal, and the tragedy in Guyana.

The writers of the letters are interested in what the essence is of the Egyptian-Israeli so-called peace treaty, which is being prepared, and how it is related to the process of an all-embracing settlement in the Near East. You are answered by Vsevolod Nikolayevich Sofinskiy, head of the Press Department at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Egyptian-Israeli Treaty Talks

[Sofinskiy] This peace treaty is the result of an Egyptian-Israeli--or rather to put it more precisely, an Egyptian-Israeli-U.S.--deal. It is the result of the capitulatory anti-Arab policy of the present president of Egypt, As-Sadat. It is a real gift to imperialism, against which the Arab peoples have struggled and are still struggling. It is a real gift to the aggressor, that is, to Israel, which has more than once carried out acts of aggression against Arab countries and which is now striving to consolidate the results of its aggressive policy toward the Arab countries.

And indeed, look: The peace treaty does not provide for the liberation of a whole range of Arab territories--the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. It does not provide for a solution of the cardinal questions, and of perhaps the main, most important question of a Near East settlement: to be precise, the Palestinian question. It provides only for the liberation of Sinai, but Sinai is not the main question in a Near East settlement, and this was discussed very well and convincingly in his day by An-Nasir, the previous president of Egypt. I quote from what he said in April, 1968: The liquidation of the consequences of Israeli aggression is by no means a matter of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai alone. If it was a matter of this alone, a re result could be achieved tomorrow by means of concessions. I repeat: If it was only Sinai that had to be liberated, everything would be easy. But it is a matter of our fate and of the fate of all Arabs. In order to liberate Sinai it would be necessary to accept U.S.-Israeli conditions, to square accounts and hand over to Israel Jerusalem, the West Bank of the Jordan and other Arab lands. The problem of liquidating the consequences is much more complicated than the liberation of Sinai. Shall we remain an independent, (?sovereign state), shall we fall into the sphere of influence or shall we reject that? That is the question.

These words of An-Nasir, the former president of Egypt, today sound like a direct commentary on this Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

[Kosovan] Vsevolod Nikolayevich, how does the Egyptian-Israeli plan take account of the interests of the Arab people of Palestine, who for over 30 years have been struggling for their existence and their lawful right to self-determination, including the right to create a national state?

[Sofinskiy] The treaty does not simply pass over this right in silence. It seals Egypt's acceptance of the Begin plan, which is aimed at annexation by Israel of the West Bank of the Jordan and of the Gaza Strip. This plans provides for the creation here of a region of so-called autonomous self-government, obviously under the control of Israel. As-Sadat in the final analysis also agreed to Begin's demands for the preservation and future expansion of the network of Israeli settlements in these territories.

According to Begin's plan, following the creation on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip of a self-governing body--the so-called Administrative Council--a transition period will exist for 5 years. In the third year talks may start on the final status of the regions. Moreover, it is stipulated--and incidentally, As-Sadat also agreed to this--that taking part in these talks on the Palestinian side will be elected representatives of the resident of the West Bank of the Jordan and of the Gaza Strip. In other words, the talks--and this is perhaps the most important thing--on the Palestinian people's fate exclude its sole representative, the representative of Palestine, lawfully and officially recognized by the entire Arab world and the progressive world public: The PLO. Thus, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty consolidates Israel's colonization of all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, with sole exception of Sinai.

On the West Bank of the Jordan, in the Gaza Strip and also on the Golan Heights, over 100 Israeli militarized settlements are being created and some have already been created. Moreover, in my view it must be noted that the greatest activity in creating these settlements was being done during the Begin government and in particular at the time when the Egyptian-Israeli talks on the conclusion of this treaty were being held.

[Kosovan] Will the treaty completely liquidate the consequences of Israeli aggression as regards Egypt itself?

[Sofinskiy] Well, we have already noted that this is an anti-Arab deal, it is anti-Arab treaty, and that also means anti-Egyptian. This document essentially limits Egypt's sovereignty over Sinai when it is returned to it; Israel, with the U.S. help, is creating two air bases close to the border of the demilitarized zones, which in essence will signify the preservation of Israel's military and strategic control over Sinai. The withdrawal of Israeli forces from the peninsula will be carried out over 3 years from the time the treaty is signed, but within 9 months, Egypt will establish diplomatic relations with Israel--on a full scale. And all this will take place against a background of continuing Israeli occupation of a significant part of Sinai.

When, in October this year, members of the former Revolutionary Command Council of Egypt, in their appeal to President As-Sadat, wrote that the treaty, foundations of which were laid at Camp David, lowers the national dignity of Egypt, they had in mind this anti-Egyptian aspect.

[Kosovan] Obviously, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty will worsen conditions for the further struggle to liquidate the consequences of Israeli aggression in 1967.

[Sofinskiy] Yes, and furthermore the treaty in essence takes the biggest Arab country in terms of population and the most powerful country economically, militarily--Egypt--out of that struggle.

And in the opinion of the overwhelming majority of Arab observers, the separate deal is nothing but a plot, with the aim of deepening the split in the Arab world, of undermining the very idea of joint anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist actions by the Arab countries.

According to the treaty, As-Sadat has taken on an obligation which in essence signifies Egypt's complete relinquishment of aid to other Arab countries and forces in their struggle against Israel's expansion. One can quote, for example, an article published in the U.S. magazine SEVEN DAYS . This article reveals the secret points of the Camp David agreements, according to which, in the event of a conflict between Israel and one of several Arab states, Egypt will not act against the Israelis. And there is one more aspect to which I would like to draw listeners' attention: The separate deal, by its nature and consequences, will do more, much more, to promote the turning of Egypt into an instrument safeguarding the interests of the United States, including its struggle against progressive regimes in the Arab world. It is known that the supplies of arms to the Egyptian Army by the United States, which began after As-Sadat had embarked upon his capitulatory course, were conditional upon Egypt's promise to limit the use of these arms to actions only against liberation forces in Africa, in particular in revolutionary Ethiopia.

And the Egyptian-Israeli treaty creates only an illusion of a settlement. As-Sadat is trying to create the illusion, but in fact both As-Sadat and the Egyptian people are losing everything for which he and they fought: In essence, they are losing everything. In actual fact, the treaty in all its aspects is aimed against insuring a just and consequently stable peace in the Near East.

Namibian Situation

[Kosovan] And now let us turn to Namibia. Radio listeners (Malyshev) of Rostovskaya Oblast, (Kalyagina) of Saratov, (Popryanchenko) of Kiev and (Goryunov) of Kharkov are interested in the balance of forces in the country since the holding of the elections there. To answer this, comrades, we have invited Nikolay Petrovich Khokhlov, an observer of IZVESTIYA:

[Khokhlov] One should recall in what circumstances the elections were held. I have here a report from AFP, which had a representative in the north of the country during the so-called election campaign. It reads, and I quote: An army tent, surrounded by trenches, protected by sandbags and defended by armed South African soldiers: This is the polling station at (Epale), an African village in the center of Ovamboland, the most densely populated region in northern Namibia. The elections for the inaugural assembly, organized by Pretoria, are being held there.

Further details in this on-the-spot report paint a picture of the election comedy, the totally unconcealed maltreatment of the local inhabitants. The official specially appointed by the Republic of South Africa filled in the voting papers himself and dished them out readymade, to the inhabitants who were herded in by force. The local bishop, Auala, told press representatives that elections held in the presence of soldiers cannot be called free, and you are witnesses to this, he added.

This is why the racist farce of the so-called general elections has not solved and could not solve the [word indistinct] problems of Namibia. This totally rigged comedy has only led to a further distance between those forces in the country which, on political questions, take diametrically opposed views. On the one hand, Pretoria's tactics become still clearer: They are directed at keeping Namibia under its control.

On the other hand, the elections, which were boycotted by the South-West Africa People's Organization [SWAPO] confirmed the correctness of the course of the Namibian patriots, who urge activation of the partisan struggle and revelation of the machinations of the Western imperialist countries who have been and are still playing a double game on the Namibian problem.

[Kosovan] Nikolay Petrovich, can the decisions of the United Nations on Namibia be reconciled with what is being done by the Pretoria authorities?

[Khokhlov] Well, really, they cannot be reconciled at all. They are totally against the UN documents.

Let us recall that throughout this year, the United Nations has repeatedly discussed the question of Namibia and its future status. It then seemed to many people that by the beginning of 1979, this African country would obtain independence. A date of 31 December was even decided on. In accordance with the UN decisions, during the period of preparation for the elections, and also during the transitional period connected with the formation of state organs of the new power in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, UN contingents were to arrive in Namibia. Initially, the Republic of South Africa [RSA] agreed to this course of events, and even entered into negotiations with plenipotentiary representatives of the United Nations. But then, as one might say, things took a quite different course. The RSA totally ignoring the UN decisions, and in breach of the agreements reached, began to build up its armed forces in Namibia, under whose cover these elections were held. The Security Council adopted a special resolution, describing the holding of the so-called elections as an open challenge to the entire United Nations. The United Nations' call for cancelling the elections had no effect on the fanatical defenders of racism and apartheid.

The position taken by the Western powers in the United Nations is typical and highly revealing. The United States, Britain, France, the FRG and Canada abstained from voting during the debate on the resolution exposing the South African elections farce in Namibia. These same five countries hastened to publish a joint statement, indicating that they will not support any proposal for strict sanctions against the RSA. The explanation of this is simple. In the past year along, the monopolies of these very same Western countries have taken out of Namibia a vast quantity of diamonds, gold, thousands of tons of lead, uranium, copper and other materials which are used to make nuclear weapons.

[Kosovan] Yes. And how, in your view, will events in Namibia develop in the future?

[Khokhlov] Primarily, one should note that the wretched staging of these elections has, to a serious extent, complicated the overall political situation in this part of the African Continent. The elections represent a retreat from the course which had been laid down for peacefully settling the problem. We have here a new act of treachery by the racist clique, who, in their actions enjoy the direct, or sometimes concealed, approval of Western representatives.

All these loudly proclaimed shuttle operations to Africa by Western emissaries and all the mediation by the Western powers is, in fact, a convenient screen, behind which the avenging sword of the crusher of African liberty and independence is concealed.

The moral prestige of the West as a whole on the question of southern Africa has, at the present time, fallen to its lowest level. Trust is being dissipated, and more and more Africans are taking a sharply critical attitude to all sorts of initiatives coming from the capitals of the capitalist world.

[Kosovan] One may not speak with full justification of agreed actions by the RSA and the racist clique in Salisbury.

[Khokhlov] Yes. Furthermore, officials of the RSA Government do not even conceal that they would like to solve the Namibian question on the Rhodesian model; that is to put at the helm a group of puppets, such as those Ian Smith has picked out in Salisbury, and pass them off as representatives of the Namibian people's will.

Recent events in southern Africa confirm the conclusion that Pretoria and Salisbury are going over to a more active role in their struggle against the national liberation movement. The Rhodesian military has stepped up its punitive raids on the territory of the People's Republic of Mozambique under the false pretext of pursuing partisans.

At the same time, tension is rising on the border with independent Angola. A South African invasion force is located in Namibia itself, from which South African units are making systematic raids on Angola. Western observers make no secret of the fact that Prime Minister Pieter Botha's election in Pretoria is connected with the pursuit of an implacable hard line regarding the liberation movements in southern Africa. In effect, Botha and Smith hold identical views on the possibility of establishing contacts with the main political organization in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Botha does not recognize SWAPO and Smith does not recognize the Patriotic Front.

Undoubtedly, the latest events in Namibia, as in other parts of southern Africa, arouse a fully justified alarm in the ranks of supporters for the immediate liquidation of regimes under which lack of rights and persecution prevail. But we still think that these are only temporary difficulties, since any actions by the racist colonialists have their limits. They can still drag out and delay the establishment of African majority rule, but on a historical time scale they are doomed.

The question of Namibian independence has been prepared for by the whole course of the establishment and development of the new, sovereign Africa. The dispute will eventually be solved in the interests of the people of the country, who are continuing their struggle against the colonialists in the last bastions of racism.

Portuguese Political Situation

[Kosovan] A few days ago, the Portuguese parliament endorsed the powers of the country's new government, which is headed by Prime Minister Mota Pinto. Listeners (Petrakov) from Novogorod, (Ufintsev) from Dnepropetrovsk, the (Solovyev) brothers from Moscow and many others ask: Will the formation of the Mota Pinto government finally bring political stabilization to the country? Here is international journalist Eduard Vasilyevich Kovalev:

[Kovalev] In order to reply as fully as possible to your questions, comrades, it looks as though we shall have to go back a few months. At the beginning of July, representatives of the Catholic Social Democratic Center Party, which was in Soares' coalition government, demanded the resignation of Agriculture Minister Saias, an independent politician who, they alleged, had gone too far in making concessions to the communists in the Alentejo, the province where agarian reform had been carried out. The ensuing crisis led within a few days to the resignation of the whole coalition government.

It was only at the end of August, after long and drawn out efforts, that a nonpartisan government was formed, headed by the technical specialist and industrialist Nobre da Costa. It failed its very first test in parliament; as deputies rejected its program.

Nevertheless, the Nobre da Costa government remained in power to resolve matters on hand, and embarked on a storm of activity. Nobre da Costa began to speedily implement the return of lands to their former powerful owners in the Alentejo. Between 500 and 1,000 hectares were taken daily from agricultural cooperatives. Large contingents of police and gendarmes were drafted into the agrarian reform zone to implement the land return order. In a number of cases, clashes occurred with peasants, some of whom were injured. These actions by a government which had been voted down by parliament, aroused the indignation of the working masses.

[Kosovan] Meanwhile, the long, tough consultations were continuing on forming a new government. This mission was finally entrusted to the lawyer, Mota Pinto, who likewise belongs to none of the country's political parties. What can be said about this government, whose powers were endorsed in parliament a few days ago?

[Kovalev] This cabinet of nonpartisan technocrats headed by Mota Pinto is the third Portuguese Government this year and the tenth since the April revolution. It is, in effect, yet another parliamentary minority government. This time it is the center-right minority, for it has been openly supported only by deputies of the Social Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Center Party, which can count on less than half of the votes in the Assembly of the Republic.

Adhering to their consistent principled positions of defending the interests of the Portuguese working people, Communist Party deputies in parliament leveled wholly deserved criticism at the program of the Mota Pinto government. A Communist Party resolution rejecting this program was not adopted however, only because the Socialists, being the faction with the largest number, and who, along with the Communists, make up an absolute majority in the Assembly of the Republic, refused to support it. Western European commentators emphasize that it is precisely the Socialists who have given the green light to the present government.

[Kosovan] Could you, Eduard Vasilyevich, describe for us perhaps a few of the ministers in this government?

[Kovalev] Indeed. It would be interesting to take a look at what--as Mota Pinto himself put it--these politically competent people, who make for the uniformity and effectiveness of his government, are like.

The Lisbon paper DIARIO DE LISBOA wrote as follows: The new foreign minister, Freitas Cruz, is a professional diplomat with connections in Catholic circles. He has recently been the Portuguese representative in NATO. His first major diplomatic post, in the 1960's, was as Portugal's consul general in the United States. Subsequently, in the 1970's, he was Protugal's ambassador to Bonn, and Portuguese delegate to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Cruz is an expert in problems relating to southern Africa and the former Portuguese colonies.

Vaz Portugal has remained minister of agriculture and fisheries in the new government. He promulgated the order for the return of lands to the former landowners in the Alentejo.

The minister of social communication in the new government, lawyer Proenca de Carvalho, is known for his conservative views.

Following the April revolution, he was for some time chief editor of the paper JORNAL NOVO, organ of the Confederation of Portuguese Industrialists, which consistently came out with attacks on Portugal's leftwing forces.

[Kosovan] What, in your view, can be expected of the new government?

[Kovalev] It is as yet too early to judge how the concrete practical activities of the Mota Pinto Cabinet will go, although all commentators foresee great difficulties ahead. However, in order to better understand the situation which has emerged in Portugal there is no particular need to analyze in detail the new government's program or forecast the main directions of its activities. It is much more important now to correctly expose the chief dangers threatening the revolutionary gains of the 25 April revolution.

The attention of observers, realistically as-essing the situation which has developed, is attracted by the process under way in the country of growing activeness of various rightwing and ultrarightist parties and groupings mobilizing their forces to mount a broad offensive against the progressive constitution, the agrarian reforms in the Alentejo province, and the system of collective land use, which has been instituted there, and against the nationalized sector of the economy. In a number of cases the rightists have already gone over to active operations.

In their activities, the reactionaries will undoubtedly make broad use of the fact that the powers of the Mota Pinto government were endorsed by the votes of rightwing and center-right deputies. It should not be forgotten that the Social Democratic Center voted against the Constitution now in force, and that quite recently one of its leaders, Amaro da Costa, aiming, as he put it, at sorting out the situation in the country, called for an all-out political confrontation with the Portuguese communists. This anticommunist line was reinforced by the decisions of the centrists' congress, which was held a few days ago in Oporto.

S. A. Carneiro, leader of another rightwing bourgeois party called the Social Democrats--probably through misunderstanding or, more likely, from ideas of social demagogy--has also come up with a suggestion that a broad political bloc should be set up to counter the Marxist and collectivist forces in Portugal.

The plans of the reactionaries can, however, be foiled if the working people of Portugal, all the country's leftwing forces and the Portuguese Communist Party are able to mobilize the popular masses to rebuff the enemies of the April revolution. The results of the municipal by-elections at Evora in the Alentejo province held recently, at which the United People's Alliance received an overwhelming majority, confirms once again the readiness of the Portuguese working people to stand up for their revolutionary gains.

LEONTYEV SEES U.S. BUILDING 'EASTERN NATO' WITH PRC, JAPAN

LD181557Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Col A. Leontyev international military-political review: "A NATO for Asia"]

[Text] Those old lines spring to mind: "A village policeman stands by the blue sea which makes an incessant din, racked with anger by the thought that he can't make the sea fall silent." To judge by what is written in the press, similar feelings are being experienced today by the people who shape U.S. policy in Asia. They have realized the obvious impossibility of making Asia "fall silent" through their own efforts, that is, of breaking the peoples' resistance to the diktat from across the ocean. [paragraph continues]

"The United States, as we have been reminded by the events in Vietnam, Cuba and Angola, is not all-powerful," the New York TIMES complained.

What kind of way out has been found? The United States has drawn up a new strategy for Asia and the Pacific which provides for a further buildup of U.S. military might in this region and at the same time the strengthening of the partnership with Japan and China.

Not just Tokyo but Peking too is now being called in the United States a "buttress" of its Asian strategy. Moreover, the idea of setting up a military-political bloc composed of the United States, Japan and China is being openly publicized in the United States. "China's contacts with Japan and the United States are developing so much that experts are speaking of an embryonic 'triple alliance,'" the New York TIMES writes.

The "triangle" is scheduled to be knocked together on the basis of the Japanese-U.S. "security treaty" and the Japanese-Chinese "Peace and Friendship" Treaty which are already in existence, and of the projected treaty between the United States and the PRC, which bears an equally fraudulent title. Citing a conversation with Teng Hsiao-ping, the Washington POST recently reported that the Chinese leadership "is energetically striving not only for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States but also of a firm U.S.-Chinese alliance against Moscow." The question of creating a new bloc was discussed at the recent session of the military commission of the Japanese-U.S. interparliamentary symposium. It is reported that (?S. Ishihari), a deputy of the Japanese parliament, even suggested a name for the bloc: "The East Asia Treaty Organization."

Everyone is free to choose an ally for himself as he sees fit. The Fuehrer once boasted that he was prepared to enter into an alliance even with the devil himself in order to achieve victory. But that was the Fuehrer who was, moreover, out of his mind. Is he not being aped by certain gentlemen who intend to enter into a coalition with those who are openly calling for the burial of detente and for preparations for a new world war and whose adventurism, duplicity, lack of political principle and treachery are known to the whole world? What is forcing them to undertake such a risky step, which is dangerous for the cause of peace and also for themselves? For it was K. Marx who warned that "a nation, like a woman, cannot be forgiven a moment's negligence when the first adventurer who comes along could commit rape against it, or her."

Unfortunately, in some gentlemen, reason often yields to lust, whereupon they cannot control themselves. They hurl themselves upon some succulent morsel like a bull at a red cloth. The well-known U.S. economist Victor Perlo writes: "The alliance between Washington, Tokyo and Peking which is coming into being has some extremely important economic aspects. World imperialism once saw China as a very tempting tidbit, taking into account its vast reserves of cheap manpower, its political weakness and rich mineral deposits. Chinese revolution put an end to this. But now the Maoists' partial counterrevolution has awakened the old dreams among the imperialists."

Representatives of more than 1,000 American companies have been to China this year alone. Newspapers have written that the heads of some businessmen are literally spinning just at the thought that China, for example, could order 900 billion (!) toothbrushes. [paragraph continues]

It is not yet clear why they should think of brushes, or even whether there will be a demand for them. On the other hand, clarity exists regarding military equipment and technology.... More than 10,000 Japanese dealers have visited China in the same period. They have an advantage over their competitors: China is next door, they know it well, and some people have not forgotten how they conquered that land. "The Japanese," an American historian has written, "have not abandoned hope of returning to China and taking up the dominant position there." As for the Maoists, they reckon that their "allies" will help them turn China into a mighty power with a developed industry and a nuclear missile arsenal.

Supporters of creating "a NATO for Asia" occupy the same anti-Soviet and antisocialist platform. The only difference is that Washington and Tokyo call the Soviet Union "the most likely opponent," while Peking calls it "enemy No 1." But both dream of liquidating the people's revolutionary gains, recarving the borders and establishing their ascendancy in Asia and see the Soviet Union as the chief obstacle in their way.

Forming a bloc with the imperialists, Peking does not tire of repeating absurd fabrications about the "Soviet threat" and is in favor of keeping American military bases in Asia and of the revival of Japanese militarism. China, the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR acknowledges, is pursuing a policy of "brinkmanship" which includes "deliberate stoking of tension and active confrontation with countries with which it has disagreements." Peking, which has entered into "conflict with Vietnam" and supports its own henchmen in Kampuchea, the New York TIMES writes, "is in roughly the same position in Indochina today as the United States was in the past."

As we see, a certain unity exists. But it is far from strong. The alliance of American imperialists, Japanese revanchists and Chinese great-power chauvinists is directed against the vital interests of all peoples. It has and can have no future.

The vaunted "unanimity" cannot hide the fact that each of the members of the projected bloc regards its partners merely as temporary, tactical allies. The American journalist James Reston believes that the United States is "playing all kinds of games" in relations with China and Japan. He just forgot to add that both the United States and its partners are playing with marked cards.

The American gamblers are doing their best to advertise their "friendly" feelings for Japan. Tokyo for its part does not stint on compliments addressed to Washington. However, it would be naive to assume that Japan is reconciled to its subordinate position. World War II did not resolve the fundamental contradictions between the two rivals. They have been dampened down for the time being. Will it be for long? In the opinion of R. Clough, a specialist on problems of U.S. Asian policy, "as Japanese economic and political influence grows in East Asia, Japan's interests will increasingly frequently diverge from America's." FOREIGN POLICY notes with alarm that Japan has begun acquiring offensive types of weapons and there is even talk in Tokyo about the production of its own nuclear weapons and right to make preemptive strikes. Evidently, the American capital has still not quite forgotten Pearl Harbor....

With Washington's support, China's emperors are drawing Japan into an alliance. But they certainly have not renounced their territorial claims on Japan.

It is not merely a question of the Senkaku Islands, but also of the Ryukyus. Peking dreams of dominion over the entire Pacific. Mao's wild utterances, from which Peking has not dissociated itself, are evidence of this. "The Pacific today is hardly pacific," Mao said. "In the future, when it is under our control, it will be possible to consider it pacific." "In a few years," he said, "we are sure to build a big empire and we will be ready to land in Japan, the Philippines and San Francisco." Not surprisingly, there are growing fears concerning the consequences of an alliance with China among sober-minded Japanese and Americans.

Southeast Asia is becoming the region in which the game of chance and violent clashes between the three partners are enacted. Peking also considers it "lost territory" which "must be recovered" and is already trying to recover it. For the time being Washington too is tolerating China's actions. But, once again, for how long? Former Secretary of the Air Force T. Finletter asserted: "The United States has such a great interest in Southeast Asia that it is even prepared to risk a full-scale war in order to hold the region." Also beginning to lay claim to a leading role there is Japan, which has penetrated deep into the Southeast Asian countries' economies and is continuing its expansion.

The most dangerous game is being played on an anti-Soviet platform. Certain U.S. circles are trying to play the "China card," that is, to use the Peking leadership's anti-Sovietism to pressure and blackmail the USSR. There are those who are prepared to go still further. "More than any other U.S. official, Brzezinski is interested in bringing about a confrontation between China and the Soviet Union," the New York TIMES pointed out. He revealed his interest himself when he rejoiced at the conflict between Vietnam and Kampuchea, regarding it as "the first instance of an indirect clash between China and the Soviet Union."

In turn, it is written in the West, the "China card, Peking style" is being brought into play in the capital of the "land under heaven." Every visitor from across the ocean is told terrifying stories about the "bear" which is poised to "swallow Europe," "eat up Africa" and "tear Asia to pieces" and which is already "stretching out its claws toward the doors of the United States." The Maoists are endeavoring by every means to provoke a war between the United States and the USSR so that they themselves "sit on the hill like a wise monkey and watch the skirmish in the valley between two tigers." In such a way, they hope, the two great powers will annihilate each other and thereby open up for Peking the way to world hegemony. According to their schemes, that is the form that the outcome of their playing the China card is to assume.

The projected "triangle" is provoking legitimate indignation throughout the world. Even the bourgeois press condemns the U.S. attempts to structure its policy not in a way that accords with the peoples' interests but in spite of these interests, and not on a long-term basis but on the shaky and dangerous ground of short-term circumstantial considerations, and to liken policy to a card game based on chance. Noting the aggressive nature of the Peking regime, its instability, the unpredictability of its actions and its predisposition to change its allies frequently, many U.S. newspapers consider an alliance with China to be risky and at variance with the interests of the West itself.

"Predicting China's future is the same as trying to guess the future from dregs in coffee cups," the New York TIMES declares gloomily. In its words, the United States "will gain nothing and lose a great deal if it helps China to acquire a considerable offensive potential.... The strengthening of China as an opponent of the Soviet Union can hardly promote security in Asia, let alone world security." "We have no reason to suppose that in 20 years, for instance, China will be benevolently inclined vis-a-vis the West," the British weekly THE OBSERVER writes, citing a certain Washington figure.

Three-quarters of the USSR's territory is located in Asia and our people naturally have a vital interest in the consolidation of security in that part of the world. The Soviet Union is in favor of international detente being deepened, expanded and extended to the most populous continent of the world--Asia. "Peace, tranquility, freedom from any outside interference and neighborly relations--this is what Southeast Asia, the Asian Continent as a whole, and the countries of the whole world particularly need at the present time" Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said recently.

The attempts by the enemies of detente to knock together a new military bloc and thereby to render the situation in the Far East more complicated requires that we display unremitting vigilance and a constant readiness to protect the motherland's interests and security.

ACADEMICIAN ON HARNESSING ENERGY OF FUSION REACTION

LD151611Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 2 LD

[Acad B. Kadomtsev article: "Inexhaustible Energy Source"]

[Excerpt] Work began in the Soviet Union approximately 30 years ago to harness the reaction of a thermonuclear explosion and obtain it under controlled conditions so that its energy could be utilized for peaceful purposes. This work was carried out for a long time in our country at the I.V. Kurchatov Atomic Energy Institute. Then other institutes joined in the work. Research over many years resulted in a very deep experimental and theoretical base for understanding how to approach controlled thermonulcear fusion. For many years the USSR held and still holds a leading role in this direction.

The work begun in 1950 was initially aimed at one, seemingly very promising idea: utilizing so-called self-constructed powerful electrical discharges. It seemed that one only had to obtain such a discharge for the temperature involved to rise to the high orders and a thermonuclear reaction to ensue (but the temperature has to be at least 50 million degrees; in order to explain the tremendous heat involved I will say that the sun's surface is heated to "only" 6,000 degrees). But then it became apparent that the necessary temperature cannot be reached with the help of discharges of this type. And even if it is reached, it is for such a short time that in practice a reaction does not occur.

This first unsuccessful attempt was connected with insufficient knowledge of the properties of the high-temperature state of matter(we call it plasma) in which thermonuclear reactions must occur. It turned out that physicists were simply not ready to work with matter in that state and had little information on its properties. It was necessary to develop a broad program of research, first of all, into ascertaining the physical properties of plasma and then into seeking optimal ways to resolve the problem of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

The directions that have proven the most promising gradually began to crystallize. One of them achieved recognition not only here but also abroad and has been scoring ever-increasing successes in recent years. This is "Tokamak"--a concept created at the Atomic Energy Institute. Its "material embodiment" is a doughnut chamber with a magnetic field. To put it more simply, it is a hollow tube "bent" into a ring and filled with gas. An electrical current passes through it "in a circle." The plasma is heated as a result and naturally seeks to expand. But a powerful magnetic field counteracts this. Very good results in confining the plasma and reaching a high temperature had already been obtained in the early seventies. At that stage, the outstanding Soviet physicist, Acad L.A. Artsimovich, made a very great contribution to ascertaining the properties of plasma on Tokamaks.

After this, research on Tokamaks developed on a wide front. It was soon shown that it is possible to create conditions under which plasma will exist for a long time at a gigantic temperatures. It turned out that the greater its volume the longer it exists in this state. Therefore it is sufficient in principle simply to increase the plasma's dimensions. Then its lifetime increases. And if the plasma is heated to a high temperature, intensive thermonuclear reactions will certainly occur.

As regards temperature, rapid progress was observed here as well. At first, it was raised to several million degrees. But then in 1975, two very big Tokamaks were commissioned at the I.V. Kurchatov Atomic Energy Institute (USSR) and at Princeton (United States). They showed that the plasma temperature can be raised to 10-15 million degrees. U.S. physicists recently raised it to 60 million degrees by using additional means of heating. We are preparing to conduct experiments on additional heating of plasma in a somewhat different version in 1979.

Work is also being conducted in other very promising directions. In particular, laser techniques and relativistic electron beam techniques for the rapid heating of small targets have been developed in recent years. It is supposed that they will make it possible to conduct a series of small explosions of small hydrogen bombs. These bombs will be literally the size of a pinhead. Nevertheless, if we produce explosions in succession, we can obtain a considerable quantity of energy. It is also supposed that a reaction in a small heated target will have time to occur before the target disintegrates. This direction of so-called pulsed plasma confinement has also been developing intensively in recent years.

Progress in all this work has been greatly aided by the situation of the close international scientific cooperation, that evolved after 1956, when I.V. Kurachatov delivered his famous report in Britain publicizing his work on controlled thermonuclear fusion. And this cooperation is continuing to develop at the present time. The reader would probably be interested to learn of the new steps taken in this direction.

Last spring, Soviet scientists proposed that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) create an international experimental reactor of the Tokamak type, which would be able to demonstrate the engineering possibility of controlled themonuclear fusion.

Today there are approximately 50 Tokamak-type installations operating in the world. Objective necessity and the entire course of research dictate the creation of increasingly powerful and, naturally, costly installations. The Euratom countries are constructing "JET"--Joint European Tokamak. The United States and Japan are building similar large installations. Tokamak 10-M with superconducting magnetic coils, will be constructed in our country.

Of course, pooling the efforts of different countries would not only reduce the cost of such work but also accelerate it. This is why the Soviet Union's proposal has been unanimously welcomed by the scientists of other states. The IAEA has also supported it. It was decided to set up a working group of specialists to design an international Tokamak, which included representatives from the USSR, the United States, the Euratom countries and Japan.

I have just returned from Vienna, where this group's first session was held. It outlined a work program for 1979 to determine accurately what this Tokamak reactor should be like, what aims should be set and what results should be obtained.

If everything develops as the scientists plan, it is possible to make the following forecasts: The physical feasibility of controlled thermonuclear fusion will seemingly be demonstraated over the next 4-5 years of work with the installations now under construction. It will be shown under experimental laboratory conditions that a thermonuclear reaction occurs, and does so in a controlled form.

This will need to be followed by a phase of technical demonstration of the fact that a reaction can be maintained for a long time. at a constant level and on the scale necessary for a future thermonuclear power station, that it is also controllable on this scale, and that all the reactor's systems work reliably and in harmony. The minimum time needed to plan and build such a reactor will be 7-8 years. So that in some 10 years time, some time closer to 1990, it is possible to expect the first results of perhaps not yet an industrial but at least an engineering and technical reactor.

Some 7-8 years later, still in this century, the first thermonuclear power station will apparently appear. It will show how it is possible to use the giant new energy source for peaceful purposes and thereby exclude the problem of the limited nature of energy resources from mankind's future history forever.

As a rule--and history teaches us this--new energy sources do not totally supplant old ones but combine with them in some optimized system. Speaking of the turn of the century, coal, which there is quite a lot of, will still probably play a definite role. By that time, oil and gas will most likely beused only for the chemical industry. "Conventional" nuclear power generation together with fast breeder reactors will be in its heyday. Solar power generation will be gaining ground. As for thermonuclear fusion, it will most likely start playing an appreciable role in power generation somewhere around 2010-2020.

You sometimes hear this opinion expressed: When controlled thermonuclear fusion is realized, we will start obtaining energy in unlimited quantities directly from sea water. In fact it is not all so elementary. This is something for the remote future. And it is hard to predict today when the physical principles for resolving this problem will be formulated.

The controlled thermonuclear fusion now in question is connected with the use of a mixture of deuterium and tritium. But tritium has to be prepared artificially from lithium. Therefore thermonuclear power generation over the next 20-30 years will be connected chiefly with the use of lithium as fuel.

After this first stage has been completed, the next one will follow, when deuterium will chiefly be used as fuel. Here it is very difficult for me to guess far ahead, while the corresponding physical solutions do not exist. But, proceeding from general confidence in the talents of mankind, it is to be supposed that this problem will be resolved as well.

OPEC DECISION TO RAISE OIL PRICES 'PROTECTION MEASURE'

LD181322Y Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Vienna, December 18, TASS--"A compromise with considerable differences,"--this is how the results of the conference of OPEC nations in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, could be qualified. In the course of the two-day closed meetings the petroleum ministers, taking part in the conference, considered the question of prices on raw oil for 1979 and decided to raise them. The raising will be carried out in four stages. As of January 1st petroleum will be five per cent more expensive. In April, July and October petroleum prices will be gradually increased up to 14.5 per cent at the end of the year.

However, the situation in OPEC, which developed in the past two years, spoke of the need to raise petroleum prices more substantially. During the period that elapsed after the OPEC conference in Doha (December 1976), when petroleum prices were last increased, the incomes of OPEC members dropped sharply due to steadily growing prices on goods imported from the capitalist states, rapid growth of inflation in the West. As stated in Abu Dhabi by Algerian Minister for Petroleum Sid Ahmed Ghozali, "the goods we could buy for one barrel (159 litres) of oil in 1974 now cost us three barrels."

Another factor that produced the dropping of real incomes from oil export is the sharp slump of the dollar's exchange rate in the monetary markets of Western states. According to OPEC data, the oil producing states lost a total of about 17,000 million dollars due to this in 1977 alone. Many of these nations even had to abandon some of their industrial development programs. Whereas the positive payments balance of the OPEC states taken together will presumably equal to 15,000 million dollars this year, eight of them, accounting for 96 per cent of the entire population of the OPEC countries, will round off the year with a total deficit of 500 million dollars. For the sake of comparison it is pertinent to note that in 1974 the OPEC nations' positive balance equalled 65,000 million dollars.

This is why the demands are being voiced ever more persistently among the OPEC nations that petroleum prices should be raised to meet the growing cost of imported goods, and that the dollar should be replaced by another account unit, based on the exchange rates of the currencies of different countries.

However, in spite of the fact that the oil-producing states lost daily many millions of dollars due to the opposition of several OPEC states, which, pressured by the United States, come out both against a bigger increase of petroleum prices and replacement of the dollar by another account unit, they were unable to take effective measures safeguarding them from such losses.

Since, according to forecasts of even Western economists, the growth of inflation in the capitalist countries will not stop next year, too, the price increase on which the OPEC countries have agreed at Abu Dhabi, will be practically reduced to naught and they will go on losing many millions of dollars.

The decision of the Abu Dhabi conference was negatively received in the leading capitalist states. Western mass information media have launched a broad campaign accusing the OPEC countries of allegedly boosting inflation still further. This is nothing but an attempt to put the blame of somebody else. It is precisely the incapability of the Western industrial nations to curb the rapid growth of inflation and establish order on the monetary markets that influenced seriously the developing countries, including the OPEC nations. The decision they have taken is of a protective nature.

UNGA URGES CREATION OF MIDEAST NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE

LD151830Y Moscow TASS in English 1743 GMT 15 Dec 78 LD

["United Nations: The Middle East Must Be Turned Into a Nuclear-Free Zone"]

[Text] New York, December 15, TASS--TASS correspondent Valentin Vasilets reports:

The United Nations General Assembly has issued call to create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. The resolution on this question, adopted by 138 votes, imperatively calls on all the sides concerned to consider the question of taking practical and urgent measures to implement the proposal to create a nuclear-free zone in this region. To promote the achievement of this goal, the Middle East countries must join the nuclear weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The General Assembly recommends the Middle Eastern states to declare solemnly, before such a zone is created, that they will refrain on the basis of reciprocity from the manufacture, purchase or acquisition by any other means of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. The resolution also urges the Middle Eastern states to refrain from giving permission to any other side to deploy nuclear weapons in their territories. It is indicative that only Israel abstained when the resolution was put to a vote. This fact, in the opinion of many delegations to the United Nations, confirms once again the groundedness of world public opinion's alarm in connection with Tel Aviv's nuclear pretensions.

The representatives of Arab states repeatedly drew attention during the deliberations at the plenary meetings and in the committees of the General Assembly to the danger with which acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel was fraught for the cause of peace. In the opinion of some delegations, Tel Aviv already possesses such weapons. Sharply criticised in this connection were the [word indistinct] powers, which helped Israel to prepare the ground for the development of its own nuclear potential.

The General Assembly deems it necessary to forestall this menace. A resolution was adopted by a majority vote, requesting the Security Council to urge all the states to stop the transfer to Israel of nuclear equipment, fissionable materials or technology.

The General Assembly went on record against all military cooperation with Israel. The document urges all the states to refrain from any deliveries to Israel of arms. Ammunition, military equipment or transport facilities, as well as spare parts to them.

RETIRED U.S. MILITARY FIGURES CALL SALT-II 'TRAP'

LD181822Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program with Pavel Kasparov]

[Summary] Agencies report in connection with the coming Gromyko-Vance meeting that there are still some obstacles to a SALT agreement. "It is reported that, in connection with the progress that is beginning to be achieved at the talks, a group of retired American generals and admirals is traveling about the United States trying to convince Americans that the expected agreement is a trap and that the Russians have gained military and nuclear superiority over the United States. Also bound to cause alarm is the fact that in U.S. official circles there is an obvious desire to compensate for the limitation that may be imposed on certain types of effective weapons by increasing allocations for the development of other weapons that are not, so far, the object of the talks. And this is being done supposedly with the aim of weakening opposition to a new SALT agreement. Yet it is, after all, perfectly obvious that the successful early completion of the Soviet-U.S. SALT-II talks demands not concessions to the hawks but a firm will and sincere desire to rid the peoples of the burdensome and dangerous arms race."

'NEGLIGIBLE' U.S. TROOP REDUCTION IN ROK INSIGNIFICANT

LD181609Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[TASS report: "They Are Supporting a Puppet"]

[Text] Washington, 14 December--The United States is not about to abandon its policy of giving all-round support to the thoroughly rotten Seoul regime, but is seeking at the same time to create the illusion that it is fulfilling the President's campaign promises about reducing the U.S. military presence in South Korea. The Pentagon states that the first group of U.S. soldiers from the 2d Infantry Division has flown home from South Korea.

Commentators are pointing out that this widely publicized action does not change the essence of U.S. policy. At the beginning of this year the White House decided to sharply slow up the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea. At the present time these troops total 40,000 men, and by the end of 1979 only 6,000 soldiers and officers will have been withdrawn. And no deadline for the withdrawal of the other Army units has been established. It is Washington's intention to make up for this negligible reduction in the numerical strength of U.S. military personnel in South Korea by expanding deliveries of combat equipment to Seoul. In the next few years U.S. military aid to the dictator will total $1.9 billion.

BROOKINGS REPORT 'INCITES' U.S. USE OF FORCE ABROAD

LD181703Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[L. Kedrin article: "Instigators"]

[Text] Two perfectly clear aspects may be distinguished in the "Strength Without War" report published in Washington by the Brookings Institution. [paragraph continues]

The first is the impressive candor with which the authors have calculated the number of cases of U.S. foreign military intervention in the 30 years from 1946 through 1975. According to these figures, on 215 occasions the United States used force in international relations by means of direct intervention, military demonstrations or the threat of using nuclear weapons. Here the report "does not examine" major aggressive acts like the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The second striking point is no less important, since it concerns the future. The authors--and by an irony of fate one of them is Barry Blechman, assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency--point out that "as memories of the Vietnam war fade the United States is able to make freer use of its armed forces for political purposes." The analysis contains a direct hint to the government: The more interventions there are, the higher the President's popularity supposedly rises in public opinion polls....

It is hard to describe the Brookings report as anything other than open incitement to an even more aggressive policy. And U.S. opposition to the adoption of the Soviet proposal, so widely supported by the peace-loving world public, for concluding a world treaty on the non use of force in international relations becomes understandable, since this means renouncing the use or threat of force, and it is just such actions that the Brookings Institution calculates on and glorifies.

DOLLAR FALLS DESPITE 'DESPERATE' STEPS AFTER OPEC DECISION

LD181624Y Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 18, TASS--The decision of the petroleum exporting nations to raise petroleum prices 14.5 per cent next year caused the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar to drop in the international monetary market. The exchange rate of the dollar began to slump from the very opening of the Tokyo stock exchange today. By the middle of the day the dollar was sold at 193.3 yen as compared to 195.75 yen which was offered for one dollar before the closing of the exchange last Friday. The Bank of Japan has reportedly taken urgent measures to keep up the exchange rate of the dollar and bought up 200 million dollars of American currency.

The dropping of the dollar exchange rate is also reported from the principal FRG currency exchange at Frankfurt-on-Main. Today morning one dollar was exchanged for 1.87 FRG marks, whereas the official rate last Friday was 1.95 marks. A considerable decline of the dollar's exchange rate is also recorded at the currency exchanges of France and Switzerland.

It is noted by commentators in this connection that the dropping exchange rate of American currency is occurring despite the set of "desperate" steps, as they were called by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal, taken by the U.S. Government on November 1st this year to stabilize the American currency.

These measures included, specifically, expansion of the United States currency agreement with several countries on the exchange of their currency for dollars up to the overall sum of 15,000 million dollars (previously this sum amounted to 7,400 million dollars). The U.S. partners under this agreement are the FRG, Switzerland and Japan. However, judging by reports from Japan and the FRG, intervention by the central banks of these countries was unable to prevent a new decline of the American currency's exchange rate.

PEKING'S 'PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITY' AROUSES PUBLIC'S ANXIETY

LD190902Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1707 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow -- Valentin Timoshin, TASS political observer, says:

Against the background of the enormous efforts of the countries of the socialist community in defense of peace and security of the peoples, the stepping-up of the subversive and provocative activity of Peking on the international arena arouses the growing anxiety of the peace-loving public. Facts concerning the great-power policy of blackmail and pressure, which Peking tried to conduct toward the Lao People's Democratic Republic have recently become public. Failing to achieve a success in this matter, Peking leaders have minimized their economic ties with Laos. They are demonstratively holding troop maneuvers on the border and are sending saboteurs and spies to Laos.

By forming a bloc with imperialism and the most rabid reaction, the Peking leaders are possessed by the maniac idea of creating a "united front" in the struggle against world socialism, against all the forces who are championing peace and security of peoples, national independence and social progress. They do not hide the fact that they consider the inevitability of a new world war as the initial point of their global strategy. Hsu Hsiang-chien, the PRC minister of defense, declared cynically in a PEOPLE'S DAILY article: "War is quite a normal phenomenon and therefore an inevitable phenomenon."

However, if China as a great power and permanent member of the UN Security Council has a special responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security of peoples, how can one speak about the kind of responsibility Peking has to the international community when the Chinese leaders continue to stubbornly oppose nuclear disarmament and describe Soviet proposals on concluding an international convention regarding the strengthening of the security guarantee of nonnuclear powers as "fresh deceit"?

The Peking leaders are trying by all possible means to rouse and use for their great-power purposes conflicts and contradictions in various areas of the globe. For instance, the instigating policy of Peking in Southeast Asia and its attempts to set the adventurist leadership of Kampuchea against Socialist Vietnam testify to this. Peking's recently growing international activity is seriously destabilizing the world situation. Particularly so, if you take into account that the present Chinese leadership, in pursuing Mao's "ideas," is constantly preparing for war and totally militarizing its own country. Peking continues nuclear tests in the atmosphere despite the resolute protests of the world public. The Chinese leaders reacted positively to the development of the neutron bomb which was planned in the United States, and PEOPLE'S DAILY, the organ of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, stated openly that the neutron bomb "isn't such a bad weapon."

In rapidly increasing the country's military potential, the Chinese leaders are trying to acquire the latest weapons anywhere they can regardless of the cost.

It is no secret that some political circles in the West, striving to play at Peking's anti-Sovietism, are beginning to play up to Peking's militarist course which is dangerous to the cause of peace. They are feeding China, supplying it with arms without considering the consequences of this shortsighted policy which reminds one more and more of the Munich policy of the thirties.

Reflecting on China's flirtation with the West, the Hong Kong bulletin CHINA NEWS ANALYSIS poses the question: "But will these friendly relations be maintained in 20-25 years time if China succeeds in becoming a major military power?" "But," the weekly concludes sadly, "not many politicians are looking 20-25 years ahead." And to no purpose!

PRC NUCLEAR PROGRAM 'HEAVY BURDEN ON CHINESE PEOPLE'

OW180209Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1230 GMT 16 Dec 78 OW

[Mitin commentary]

[Excerpts] Every time terrible mushroom clouds from a nuclear explosion go up in the Gobi Desert in Sinkiang, people in many countries become worried.

According to the Los Angeles TIMES, whenever such explosions occur the United States takes emergency measures to check for radioactivity, and forecasting organizations immediately issue warnings to vessels at sea. It is not hard to understand why the U.S. authorities take such actions. The United States is well aware of the danger a nuclear explosion in the atmosphere may pose to the people, even to those living thousands of miles from the site of the explosion. According to the New York TIMES, over 100 American children in the northeast died in October 1976 because of nuclear test in China. These children died because they drank milk contaminated with radioactive materials.

If people on the other side of the Pacific many die because of radioactive materials from nuclear explosions in China, there is no need to say what will happen to people in the neighboring areas. What will happen to the people's health when the wind from Sinkiang brings radioactive dust to the neighboring provinces? It seems that the Peking authorities are not at all concerned about their own countrymen. They never give advance warnings to the people about such a grave danger. Even when the Chinese publicly announce a nuclear explosion, it is always done after the test when it is too late to take preventive measures against radioactive contamination.

I would like to call your attention to another point. Although the nuclear bomb was once called a "paper tiger" by Mao Tse-tung, much money has been spent on this "paper tiger." At present, hundreds of millions of yuan are being wasted at the Sinkiang experimental site two or three times a year. This sum could actually be used to successfully improve the living standards of the Chinese people. Moreover, the explosion of a "paper tiger" is an important step by Mao's successor to intensify the arms race which has become a heavy burden on the Chinese working people. What is most regrettable is that the Chinese people are forced to sacrifice their well-being even when China is not threatened with the danger of an attack. Such a threat has never existed. At present, even those who sympathize with Peking's policies do not believe the myth that China is being threatened by the Soviet Union. It is no accident that not long ago the Chinese leadership was forced to stop spreading this myth abroad. People have come to realize there is no truth in either this myth or in the lie that the Soviet Union is repeatedly "pretending to attack the East while attacking the West."

Having become conceited both militarily and politically, China wants to use its nuclear "paper tiger" as part of its great-power chauvinism to pressure other countries. This is the main reason the Peking leadership is intensifying the nuclear arms race and the Chinese working people are forced to pay a high price for all this, ruining their hopes for a brighter future.

CPSU ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO PZPR REPORTED

LD142258Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1616 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--The Polish United Workers' Party is one of the big combat detachments of the international communist movement. Together with the other fraternal parties, it makes a worthy contribution to the development of Marxism-Leninism, the strengthening of the unity of the countries of the socialist community, the cohesion of the forces of the world communist and workers' movement and the struggle for peace and social progress. This is said in a message of greetings which the CPSU Central Committee has sent to the PZPR Central Committee in connection with the 30th anniversary of its formation and the 60th anniversary of the creation of the Polish Communist Party.

The greeting notes that, born in the era of the upsurge of the international workers' movement which was brought about by the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Polish Communist Party headed by the revolutionary struggle of Polish working people under conditions of the underground and of persecution, and proved that it was the loyal defender of the national and social interests of the broadest popular masses.

The unification of the Polish workers' movement and the formation in December 1948 of a united Marxist-Leninist party, the PZPR, which in its activities continued and developed the best revolutionary traditions of its predecessors--the Polish Communist Party and the Polish Workers' Party--was a historic gain of the Polish working class and vivid testimony to its political maturity, the message of greetings notes.

Today, the remarkable attainments of People's Poland in economy, science and culture are universally recognized. On the basis of accelerated economic development, much is being done to increase the well-being of working people, for solving important socioeconomic problems. These impressive reusults have been possible above all thanks to the policy of the PZPR, a party which creatively applies the general laws of the construction of socialism to the concrete conditions of its country and is loyal to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, the CPSU Central Committee message of greetings says.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1600 GMT on 14 December 1978 adds the following: "Communists of the Soviet Union and of Poland and the peoples of our countries are linked by unbreakable friendship. Soviet communists and all Soviet people wish their Polish brothers new successes on this noteworthy day."]

SOLOMENTSEV-LED DELEGATION VISITS YUGOSLAVIA

For coverage of the visit of a delegation of the RSFSR led by Mikhail Solomentsev, candidate member of the CPSU Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, to Belgrade at the invitation of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Serbia, see the Yugoslavia section of the 19 December Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

RUDE PRAVO CHIEF EDITOR VISITS MOSCOW, MEETS ZIMYANIN

LD181403Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] O. Svestka, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Secretariat and chief editor of the newspaper RUDE PRAVO, was in Moscow 10 through 14 December on the invitation of the PRAVDA editorial board. He was received by M.V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

GROMYKO MEETS VISITING AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LD181652Y Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 18, TASS--The Foreign Minister of the Austrian Republic Willibald Pahr arrived today in the Soviet Union for an official visit.

Later in the day Willibald Pahr and member of the CPSU CC Politburo, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, began negotiations.

They examined the state of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Austria and prospects for their further development. The ministers noted the reciprocal striving of the two countries to expand and deepen cooperation in the political, trade and economic, and other fields. Some topical international issues of mutual interest were also touched upon.

The negotiations are passing in a friendly, businesslike atmosphere.

BUNDESTAG APPROVAL OF SOVIET-FRG COOPERATION ACCORD REPORTED

LD181651Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Bonn, 15 December, TASS--The West German Bundestag has adopted by a majority vote a resolution proposed by the parliamentary factions of the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] and the Free Democratic Party, approving an agreement on developing and deepening long-term cooperation between the USSR and the FRG in the sphere of the economy and industry.

The resolution stresses that the agreement, signed last May during the visit to the FRG by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, is of great political significance and creates a broad, long-term basis for economic, industrial and technical cooperation between the FRG and the USSR.

Speaking during the discussion of the resolution, P. Corterier, a representative of the SPD faction in the Bundestag, stated that the long-term agreement will not only promote the stabilization of Soviet-West German relations but will also help insure peace throughout Europe.

BRIEFS

NEW EXARCH OF WESTERN EUROPE--Moscow, December 12, TASS--By the decision of the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan of Minsk and Belorussia Filaret has been appointed, concurrently, Patriarchal Exarch of Western Europe. He will be in charge of dioceses and parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church that exist in a number of West European countries. Chairman of the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate Metropolitan Krutitskiy and Kolomenskiy Juvenal gave a reception in honour of the new exarch. Metropolitan Nikodim who previously held this post died recently. Present at the reception were prominent dignitaries of the Russian Orthodox Church, Professors of the Moscow Ecclesiastical Seminary and Ecclesiastical Academy. Among those invited for the reception were leading executives of the Council for the Affairs of Religions of the USSR Council of Ministers, representatives of the Soviet public. [Moscow TASS in English 2033 GMT 12 Dec 78]

PRAVDA SCORNS MIDEAST 'LINKAGE,' SEES EGYPT 'NEUTRALIZED'

LD190955Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Article by Ye. Primakov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "The Price of a Separate Deal"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has carried out his latest round of "shuttle diplomacy" in the Near East. His departure for Egypt was preceded by a visit to Washington by the Egyptian prime minister, who conveyed to U.S. President J. Carter a personal message from Egyptian President A. as-Sadat. As-Sadat had previously exchanged confidential messages with Israeli Prime Minister M. Begin. Reports had appeared that "as a last resort" Carter would reconvene the tripartite conference with the participation of the Egyptian and Israeli leaders.

All this political and diplomatic activity, like the exchange of inspired articles in the press of the three countries, is aimed at completing the Camp David compact by signing a separate Egyptian-Israeli agreement. At Camp David a 3-month deadline, which expires 17 December, was set for its finalization.

It is widely declared that it is by no means the sides' objections to its text that are the obstacles to the immediate signing of the treaty. Begin has stated that he is prepared to sign the treaty at once. As-Sadat has stressed that he agrees with more than 90 percent of it. Matters rested on As-Sadat's desire to conceal the treaty's separate nature by any means. To this end he asked for at least a formal linkage between the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai and the elections to the Administrative Council--the organ of so-called "Palestinian self-rule" on the West Bank of the Jordan. The United States proposed mentioning this linkage not in the text of the treaty but in letters exchanged by the sides. Discussions are underway on this proposal, yet the main point has been submerged: What As-Sadat wants to link with what.

It is perfectly obvious that the Camp David agreement among the Egyptian president, the Israeli prime minister and the U.S. President on "Palestinian self-rule" is nothing but an attempt to artificially eliminate the Palestinian problem and create conditions for Israel's annexation of the territories where the Palestinian people live.

What is this "self-rule" to be?

First, this formula is designed to legalize Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza area. As-Sadat has agreed that Israeli troops may be retained in the strategically important regions on these territories "in the interests of Israel's security."

Second, this formula rules out the creation of a Palestinian national state and consequently cancels out the Palestinians' right to self-determination. It would not occur to any sane person to call self-rule the imposition on the Palestinians, counter to their will, of the status of a national minority without rights within Israel.

Third, the policy of colonization of the West Bank and Gaza is reinforced, since neither now nor in the future does "self-rule" provide for the liquidation of the Israeli settlements on these territories or even for a ban on establishing new ones. Moreover, the economic integration of the West Bank and Gaza with Israel as agricultural appendages and pools of cheap manpower is implied.

Fourth, this is an attempt to wrest the Palestinian masses from the universally recognized leadership of the Palestinian People--the PLO--and set the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza against it. When (and if) in the third year after the "election" of the Administrative Council the discussion of the future of these regions begins, it will take place without UN participation, and there will be no mention of creating a national Palestinian state.

Can it seriously be said that, by linking the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty with a timetable for implementing "Palestinian self-rule" As-Sadat will deflect the fire of criticism for his separate actions? Doesn't this linkage essentially stress the treacherous nature of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty with respect to the Palestinians?

Betrayal, and not just of the interests of the Palestinian people but of the other Arab peoples and countries, is directly borne out also by various articles of the treaty itself. Article 1 of the treaty proclaims that "the state of war between the sides (Egypt and Israel--Ye.P.) will end and peace will be established between them immediately after the exchange of instruments of ratification." Consequently the treaty removes an industrially and militarily developed Arab country from the confrontation with Israel under conditions whereby Israel, counter to the UN decisions and the appeals of the broadest circles of the international public, will continue to occupy the Arab lands seized in 1967 and deprive the Arab people of Palestine of their legitimate rights.

The treaty virtually neutralizes Egypt even if Israel unleashes a new war against its Arab neighbors. "The side undertakes not to assume any commitments contradicting this treaty," the text states. That means that Egypt must stand aside if the Israeli expansionists unleash armed operations against Syria, for instance, or Jordan or Lebanon. As-Sadat has announced his agreement with all these articles precisely when the Israeli leaders are loudly announcing their readiness to use military force in Lebanon to help the rightwing Christian elements, which are in fact opposing that country's lawful government.

The treaty rules out the presence of Palestinian patriots on Egypt's territory. Moreover, on the basis of the treaty As-Sadat undertakes to "bring to trial" those who might attempt to struggle against the Israeli authorities who have deprived the Palestinian people of their right to national self-determination.

In accordance with the treaty As-Sadat is in fact handing over Gaza to Israel--Gaza, which before Israel's occupation of this territory in 1967 was under Egypt's administrative control. The text of the treaty attests that "the permanent border between Egypt and Israel" is not the line that existed on 4 June 1967 but "the border between Egypt and the old mandate Palestine," "without predetermining the question of the status of the Gaza strip."

The treaty provides for establishment of full diplomatic and economic boycotts; free movement of people and goods, free passage through the Suez Canal and the Strait of Tiran for Israeli ships (including warships, since there is no appropriate restriction in the text). In other words, Israel, which is in a state of war with the Arab peoples of other countries, receives complete freedom of action even with regard to the movement of military formations and persons through Egyptian territory. To call a spade a spade, Egypt and Israel become partners in the struggle against the other Arab countries.

Having obtained all this while categorically refusing to withdraw its troops from any of the Arab lands except Sinai or to recognize the Palestinian Arab people's rights or the PLO as a negotiating partner, Israel will not become any more tractable in settling all the other important issues the treaty leaves "to the future" to resolve. Indeed, Begin has stated this with his characteristic impudence.

The result will be to make it more difficult to elaborate an overall settlement in the interests of all the Near East's peoples, including the Israeli people, who are also interested in peace and not in the mounting extremism of their leaders.

The Egyptian-Israeli treaty is also aimed not only indirectly but directly against the interests of the Egyptian people. Even with respect to bilateral relations it discriminates against Egypt: It is placed in an unequal position. Egypt established full relations with Israel long before the final withdrawal of Israeli troops from Sinai. It agrees to considerably broader demilitarized zones on Egyptian territory than on Israeli territory and to a ban on the use of airfields in Sinai by the Egyptian Air Force while two new Israeli Air Force Bases, which will continue to insure Israeli strategic military control of Sinai, are created in the Negev Desert--using U.S. funds.

An analysis of the treaty would be incomplete without touching on the secret articles mentioned by the U.S. press, particularly NEWSWEEK editor De Borchgrave. These articles include cooperation between both countries' intelligence services (De Borchgrave does not conceal that this cooperation is aimed against Libya, and it will certainly also be directed against other Arab countries); and the transfer of the "released" Egyptian Army from Sinai to the border with Libya.

America's SEVEN DAYS magazine has cited certain other secret articles of the treaty: a commitment by Egypt "not to insist on the PLO role" and to encourage the creation of a "third force" of Palestinians "who may agree" to the Camp David agreements; Egyptian-Israeli efforts to "force Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon within 12 months"; the "exchange of lengthy visits by Egyptian and Israeli officers" in order to insure "ties of friendship" between both armies, and so forth.

Yet another characteristic feature of the treaty is its indisputably U.S. origin. The following actions have consistently led toward a separate treaty between Egypt and Israel: the U.S. deviation from UN Security Council Resolution No 338, which was agreed together with the Soviet Union and which made the cease-fire in the Near East in November 1973 conditional on the start of work by the Geneva conference; Kissinger's diplomacy, which led the problem of a settlement away from the highway into the blind alley of partial and separate solution; the incitement and support of As-Sadat's policy aimed at sharply worsening Egypt's relations with the USSR, the constant supply of modern U.S. weapons to Israel; the organization of the Camp David meeting with direct U.S. participation in the Egyptian-Israeli contacts; and finally, the elaboration of a "compromise" but in actual fact openly pro-Israeli text of the treaty itself.

Bargaining is now taking place and methods are being sought to make the dangerous compact more respectable and reduce the Arab peoples' just anger and protests at the betrayal of their interests.

VANCE DISCUSSES DELAY IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT

LD181754Y Moscow TASS in English 1732 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] New York, December 18, TASS--Speaking on American television U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus VAnce expressed confidence that despite the present difficulties, the Egyptian-Israeli talks on signing a peace treaty will continue.

There are no such problems between Cairo and Tel Aviv which the sides could not resolve, he underlined. The statement by the head of the American diplomatic service eloquently indicates that Washington is by no means worried over the delay in finalising the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal.

Political observers feel that the "differences" between the sides are for propaganda purposes only in order to cast a veil over the anti-Arab essence of the Cairo-Tel Aviv "peace" treaty being prepared. In the prevailing situation, it is noted, the U.S. is allowing the Egyptian leadership time for displaying ostensible "firmness" in the separate talks. This is necessary for the parties in the Egyptian-Israeli bargaining under Washington's aegis, first of all for eroding the anti-imperialist platform worked out at the Baghdad summit. It is for this purpose Cairo tried to "explain" to some Arab countries, back at the time of Cyrus Vance's visit to Jerusalem, that the talks allegedly "bogged down" because the Egyptian leaders continue to "protect common Arab interests."

SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO COMMENT ON SITUATION IN IRAN

IZVESTIYA on U.S. Role

LD151409Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov: "Iran's Hot Winter"]

[Text] Tehran--The first day of winter in Iran coincided with the start of the religious month of Muharram as recognized by the Shi'ite Moslems. The religious leaders ordered that institutions, stores and shops in Tehran and other cities should close on this day. The streets were empty. Uneasiness hung over the city. At nightfall, crowds gathered in the southern part of the city, which is populated by the poor. The citizens began to chant slogans against the regime and hail the religious leader R. Khomeyni, who is in exile in France. They were answered by submachineguns. The shooting went on late into the night and it is not known for certain how many people lost their lives. The city did not sleep. The events were repeated on the night of 2 December.

However, particularly widespread and politically heated demonstrations were timed to coincide with the Moslem day of mourning. There were antigovernment demonstrations involving many thousands of people in Esfahan, Kermanshah, Qom, Mashhad, Ilam and other cities as well as Tehran. The police and the army are trying to localize the opposition's actions. In some cases these attempts end in bloody clashes with the demonstrators. According to a REUTER report around 30 people were killed by police and army bullets on 12 December in Esfahan.

Troops have once again assumed control of the Iranian capital after 2 days of demonstrations. The military authorities banned all demonstrations and marches from 12 December. The curfew has been extended by 2 hours.

The wind is piling up the leaves along Roosevelt Boulevard, whistling sadly among the gnarled branches of the bare plane trees and the fire-warped steel girders of the multistory Melik Bank. More than 400 of its branches have been burned down in the past 2 months in Tehran alone. But banks are not the only fire victims. The fashionable Diamant movie theater gapes with blackened eye sockets. Its fate is shared to a varying degree with 125 of the 139 movie theaters in Tehran showing tasteless Western movies. The skyscraper housing the West German automobile concern BMW has literally been turned into a heap of scrap metal. Some streets in the city look as though a bomb has hit them--debris, broken glass.

Recently strikes have apparently been the opposition's main weapon in the struggle against the government. The mail and telegraph services are not operating, the Ministry of Finance, the banks and custom houses are closed. Metalworkers, workers in cement plants and in the automobile industry and even oilworkers are on strike, although local radio and television have repeatedly reported that they are at work. Journalists and printers are striking with determination. Despite the military authorities' threats, the main papers are still not being published. The only sources of information are radio and television, that is, official channels, and...rumors. All higher educational establishments and secondary schools are closed, 400,000 teachers are on strike and virtually the entire education system is paralyzed.

Iran is presently living on its food stocks, but what will happen in 1 or 2 months' time? Thousands of tons of perishable goods are rotting in warehouses--Iran is 20-percent or even 50-percent dependent on imported goods. Industrial raw materials and semifinished products are awaiting shipment to the interior. Without them, enterprises are coming to a halt and unemployment is increasing.

As a result of the oilworkers' strike, oil production has fallen to 1.1 million barrels per day. Every day the economy loses $60 million. Dozens of tankers with an overall displacement of 10 million tons are standing off Khark Island, the country's main tanker port in the Persian Gulf, waiting their turn at the dock. The government is doing all it can to increase oil production. It is bringing workers from other countries, using the army and hiring strikebreakers.

Along with the oilfield workers, and in solidarity with them, workers in oil refineries and transportation companies also struck. This has led to an acute shortage of fuel, particularly gasoline. In Tehran lines of cars stretching several blocks are already forming at the gas pumps.

Complications are also arising with the power supply. The capital of the Iranian monarchy, once brightly illuminated in the evenings and glittering with advertisements and store windows, is now sunk in gloom.

Planning errors, inflation--which has reached 25-40 percent in the current year--embezzlement, corruption, the mass transfer of capital abroad and unjustifiably high military expenditures have led to a growing budget deficit. According to official figures, by the end of this year it will have reached $13 billion (the annual budget is nearly $50 billion) and total foreign debts will approach $20 billion.

Ambitious plans for creating new industrial sectors from the petrodollars that would be capable of replacing the "black gold" as a source of income have vanished into thin air. Today, people also recall the plans for a "highly civilized society." Official ideas of establishing a "classless society" without eliminating the capitalist and feudal orders have burst like bubbles. Many of the much-vaunted plans have proved hollow. The resources allocated for these purposes have been embezzeled.

A great deal is being said on radio and television about the need to combat corruption, bribery and the plundering of the population's state and private resources. However, it is possible that this is being emphasized to distract the population's attention from the main factors that led to the corruption of the system. It is becoming increasingly clear to ordinary Iranians that corruption is only the consequences, not the cause, of their troubles. Nearly all the country's ruling clique have turned out to be involved in unseemly affairs. Flagrant abuses have become known from opposition speeches in the Majlis.

Under the pretext of developing agriculture, industry and health care and financing various projects, certain ministers and senior civil servants obtained huge sums, which they used for usurious purposes, for building luxurious villas abroad and for enriching their relatives and friends.

Certain ministers and high-ranking civil servants and military figures have been arrested. An admiral in the Iranian Navy, for instance, has been on trial for embezzling $25 million. Under public pressure the shah has been forced to order that a committee be created to check the sources of income of members of his family, about which complaints have also been made.

Planning "errors" have cost the Iranian economy dearly, and are striking in their absurdity. Numbered among them are projects for the creation of nuclear power stations in the country. A plan existed to create 20 nuclear power stations at a total cost of about $30 billion. "Does a country which possesses oil and gas," Majlis deputy Lotfollah R'isi asked, "need expensive nuclear power stations? Wouldn't it be better to halt their construction now, before it is too late?" Iran allocated $700 million to construct a uranium-enriching plant in South Africa to supply Iranian nuclear power stations. The economy is also burdened by the presence of Iran capital in Western concerns, which have found themselves in a difficult position as a result of inflation. Attempts to "become related" to Western capital have proved expensive for the Iranian people.

Iran's military expenditure is excessive. In the last 20 years, according to TIME magazine, Iran has spent $36 billion on armaments alone. More than 66 percent of the $18-23 billion received annually by the country from oil and gas sales is spent for military purposes. As TIME writes: "The unjustifiably high military expenditure is exacerbating the already difficult position of the broad masses and is causing discontent."

The U.S. plans for transforming the country into an "advanced post" near the Soviet Union's southern borders are also costing the Iranian people dearly. Iran's support for the racist regime of South Africa and its participation in suppressing the Dhofar patriotic movement have considerably undermined its international prestige. It is clear to the entire world that the Iranian Government participated in these actions to please the United States and under U.S. pressure.

The present slogans of the demonstrators, who are demanding the dissolution of the Iranian-U.S. military alliance and insisting on the withdrawal of Americans from Iranian soil and on the reduction of military expenditures, are a kind of sentence passed by the nation on the U.S. interference in Iran's internal affairs.

Today the safes of Iranian banks are empty and there is nothing there to pay the wages of workers and employees. But just recently, according to ETTELAAT, $30 million per day were being transferred abroad. I have before me a list of high-ranking figures compiled by employees of Iran's Central Bank. It includes 175 names. In September and October alone, these people transferred $1.94 billion abroad. They include army generals, important officials, traders, industrialists and contractors. And that is in just 2 months.

On the wall of the U.S. Embassy you can read poorly obliterated inscriptions: "Iranian Oil for the Iranians!" "Down with the Military Alliance with America!" and the "Yankees Go Home!" which is known to the entire world. These slogans are exceptionally popular in in Iran nowadays. The people's demonstrations have a strongly pronounced anti-American, anti-imperialist trend.

The U.S. specialists engaged in constructing military and semimilitary projects have felt this. In Esfahan, for instance, the U.S. construction workers at a helicopter plant were stoned and heard demands that they go home. Some 4,000 of the 80,000 U.S. specialists have already left Iran. Following the U.S. example, citizens of other Western countries are also being evacuated.

Iranians link many of their troubles with the United States: the purchases of unnecessary and expensive armaments; the dominance of U.S. capital in the country's economy; the saturation of national cinema and television screens with base movies propagandizing sex and violence. The country's book market is crammed full of U.S. pulp literature. One Tehran newspaper complained recently that it is difficult to find the works of Iranian authors among the mountains of U.S. pulp literature in the stores. The United States has pursued a purposeful policy of Americanizing Iranians, particularly young people.

The events in Iran are becoming increasingly acute with each passing day, and the opposition is utilizing new forms of struggle against the government. A considerable role is played in this process by the religious leaders, who exert influence on the antigovernment movement, which it is putting forward its own demands. The military government is attempting to find a common language with the religious figures, but it is coming up against implacable resistance. Prime Minister G.R. Azhari's statement that henceforth all laws in the country will be revised in accordance with the principles of Islam and that future bills will be drawn up only with consideration for the demands of religion and under the guidance of religious leaders is regarded here as an attempt to neutralize them. This was precisely what they were seeking before, but now they have rejected the general's statement. They are demanding the departure of the shah and are putting forward the idea of creating an "Islamic republic" in Iran.

The struggle is growing, but only time will tell what its political results will be.

General Strike Begins

LD182050Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1130 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A general strike against the government's repressive measures is taking place in Iran today at the instigation of the opposition, the leaders of which are demanding the abolition of martial law, an end to oppression against participants in demonstrations and implementation of social and economic reforms. On the eve of the strike the government increased the number of (?guards) protecting government institutions, and heavy machineguns and armored vehicles have been deployed near Tehran University and the city's sensitive points. According to news agencies, U.S. military officials and officials of the CIA are arriving in Iran to help the military government resist the political crisis. Large demonstrations took place in New York against U.S. plans to intervene in Iranian affairs.

TASS on General Strike

LD181855Y Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 18, TASS--A general strike is being called today in Iran by the opposition in protest against the mass shooting down of demonstrators last week at Esfahan, Najafabad, Shiraz, and Mashhad. Practically all government and private institutions, banks, bazaars and shops are closed in the cities, and industrial workers are on strike. An official spokesman of the National Front said the oppositionary leaders decided not to call for street demonstrations today in order to avoid bloodshed.

As is known, demonstrations in Iran were banned under threat of using force when the military government of General Azhari came to power early in November. In case of mass popular actions, the government brought into the cities additional army units and placed tanks and armoured troop carriers with soldiers in the streets. A UPI correspondent reports from Tehran that members of the commission to investigate the circumstances of shooting down peaceful citizens in the town of Najafabad were arrested and brutally beaten up by agents of the Iranian secret police (SAVAK) on their arrival in that town. They were hit by rifle butts, their cine and still-cameras were taken away. Members of the commission managed to learn that SAVAK men broke into the homes of oppositionaries and also of doctors who had given medical aid to wounded demonstrators, and brutally dealt with them. Commission members reported that in that townlet of only 15,000 population, at least 100 people were killed and more than 1,000 wounded. The report of a commission which investigated an incident that took place the other day in a hospital in Mashhad has been published in Tehran. The document says that on December 14 several soldiers led by a sergeant broke into a hospital where wounded demonstrators were given treatment and opened fire on the medical personnel. The military government, writes today the Washington POST, is resorting to new brutal measures aimed at ending the strike of many thousands of workers and employees of the oil industry. 20 members of the strike committee were arrested at the oil field in Khuzistan Province; many were sacked. Despite all these measures, oil extraction is still only one-third of normal. More than 50 foreign tankers are idle in Iran's southern ports waiting to be loaded. The government has to buy oil products in other countries. According to American news agencies, Iran has already lost more than one billion dollars as a result of the oil workers' strike. As is known, oil workers' strikes in October and November of this year inflicted losses of 1.5 billion dollars.

ISRAELIS SUPPORT 'SECESSIONISTS' IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

LD180544Y Moscow TASS in English 1939 GMT 16 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, December 16, TASS--South Lebanese secessionists with Israel's support are carrying on activities aimed at separating Lebanon's south. In Iskandaruniyah Israeli specialists are doing work to create a naval base. Israeli weapons are being delivered at nearby areas. The secessionists intend to set up "self-defence detachments" from along local population there. The residents of a number of villages, however, refused to cooperate with the secessionists. At the same time detachments of rightist-Christian forces are creating hindrances for the U.N. interim force in the discharge of their mission. Thus, yesterday rightist-Christian artillery shelled U.N. units in the area of Tibnin, Yatar and Bayt-Yahun villages. As a result of the shelling, there are killed and wounded among civilians. The Israeli military boosted their activities, too. Over the past twenty-four hours Israel's aircraft made reconnaissance flights over Al-'Urqus, Hasbayya, an-Nabatiyah and al-Biqa areas. Israeli artillery shelled the south Lebanese city of An-Nabatiyah and populated localities around it. At the same time Israeli naval boats tried to approach the Lebanese port of Tyre but were driven away by the artillery of the U.N. force and national-patriotic detachments of Lebanon.

BREZHNEV GREETS UAE PRESIDENT ON INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

LD132152Y Moscow TASS in English 1652 GMT 13 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 13, TASS--Leonid Brezhnev addressed to President Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates a telegram conveying congratulations to the friendly people of the United Arab Emirates on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of proclamation of that state's independence and wishes of success and wellbeing. The president of the United Arab Emirates expressed gratitude for the congratulations and on his part extended to the friendly people of the USSR wishes of successes, flourishing and progress.

TURNHALLE ALLIANCE ELECTION VICTORY ASSAILED

LD181756Y Moscow International Service in English 0900 GMT 16 Dec 78 LD

[Text] On Friday the Pretoria-backed Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, DTA, was declared the winner of last week's elections in Namibia. The so-called elections were held in defiance of the United Nations' decision for internationally supervised elections there. We bring you a commentary by Radio Moscow observer Igor Dmitriyev. He writes:

Even before the elections, observers predicted an easy victory for the DTA. It is now reported to have captured 82 percent of the votes cast. Black voters were intimidated and virtually dragged to the voting booths by the 50,000-strong South African Army of occupation. Cashing in on the population's illiteracy, army officers told Namibians where to put a V-sign, standing for the DTA, in the ballots. White-owned companies sent truckloads of black workers to vote and then took them back to work. Namibians found without a voter's card were immediately arrested on charges of being terrorists. On the eve of the elections security forces and police launched a dragnet operation, arresting dozens of SWAPO sympathizers. The SWAPO organization, internationally recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people, boycotted the election farce.

While the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance has scored an 82 percent victory in these illegal elections, South Africa appears to have scored a 100 percent victory in the political game with the West over the Namibian problem. The fact is that South Africa intends to retain its control over Namibian despite numerous United Nations demands for internationally supervised elections there to give the Namibians independence from Pretoria.

Now that the DTA has come to power--it is going to control at least 41 out of the 50 seats in a Constituent Assembly--South Africa can rely on its stooges and control this mineral-rich territory. This solution of the Namibian problem benefits the Western powers which have multimillion-dollar investments in Namibia.

It isn't by coincidence that the decision to go ahead with the illegal elections was announced by South Africa right after the talks in Pretoria with the foreign ministers of the United States, Britain, France, Canada and Federal Germany.

MACHEL DISCUSSES AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE

LD182240Y Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, December 18, TASS--The struggle of the Zimbabwe patriots is our struggle and we shall continue to give them material, political and other support, said Chairman of the FRELIMO party, President of the People's Republic of Mozambique Samora Machel. Speaking of recent incursions of Rhodesian military into Mozambique territory, the president stressed that the republic represents a reliable bulwark for the liberation struggle of the peoples of South Africa.

Thousands of letters and messages by working collectives of industrial enterprises, agricultural workers, state officials and public organizations come to the Central Committee of the FRELIMO party. The letters contain sharp condemnation of the aggressive acts committed by the illegal Rhodesian regime, expressing full support for the policy of the party and the government aimed at rendering all-round assistance for the just struggle of the fraternal people of Zimbabwe against racism, apartheid and imperialism.

The Central Committee of the FRELIMO party expressed profound gratitude to the people of the Soviet Union for their solidarity with Mozambique and other "front-line" states which have taken an uncompromising stand as regards liberating the south of Africa.

MOZAMBIQUE 'BUILDING SOCIETY IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS'

LD181436Y Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, December 18, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Osipov reports:

1978 has become the year of party building in People's Mozambique. More than 30,000 finest representatives of the working people and intellectuals became this year members of the FRELIMO party, vanguard of the nation-wide struggle to lay the foundations of a socialist society. About 100 party organisations have been set up throughout the republic.

In its effort to strengthen the state sector in the national economy, the government has nationalized in recent months the electric power generating and supplying facilities, the sugar and timber industries. High production results were achieved by the workers of state mining enterprises, transport services, the "Petromoc" petroleum-processing complex.

Further successes were achieved in the transformation of agriculture. More than fifteen hundred collective-labour villages have already been created. They will subsequently become the main form of agricultural production. The state farms have boosted the production of export crops. One of the biggest husbandries of this kind at Makuza has supplied the country with 17,000 tons of copra. A record number of children, more than 1.5 million, were put on school registers this year. The system of free-of-charge medical service to the population has been strengthened. The organs of people's power are functioning successfully. Formation of people's justice bodies is all but completed.

Mozambique is busy building a new society in difficult conditions. The country is short of qualified technical personnel, experienced and skilled managerial staff. The internal reaction does not cease economic sabotage and attacks on the power of the people. The Rhodesian militarists are perpetrating raids on the border areas.

KAUNDA ADDRESSES FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

LD182242Y Moscow TASS in English 2136 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Lusaka, December 18, TASS--The cornerstone of Zambia's national policy is support for the South African peoples liberation struggle, stated President Kenneth Kaunda today at the opening of the first session of the National Assembly of the Zambian Republic.

Upon drawing attention to the complicated situation in the south of the continent, he stressed that Zambia will keep giving full support to the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the true representative of the Zimbabwe people, waging armed struggle against the racist Smith regime.

The president levelled sharp criticism at Western policies directed at establishing puppet regimes in the south of Africa. He said it is now absolutely clear that the Anglo-American "initiative" contributed nothing new to the solution of the Rhodesian question.

It envisages active participation by the Smith regime in the search for resolving the crisis, whereas the solution of the Rhodesian question is only possible, given Smith's removal, the president pointed out. In the prevailing circumstances the Rhodesian crisis can be resolved by armed struggle alone, Kenneth Kaunda underlined.

The West is trying to solve the problem of Namibia also by implanting a puppet government. Zambia resolutely condemns this policy and pledges its full support to the South-West Africa People's Organisation, that recognised leader of the embattled Namibian people. The increasing complication of the situation in South Africa has faced Zambia with the acute need to arm itself for defending its freedom and independence.

Turning to the domestic scene, the president announced certain measures directed at consolidating the country's economy. A government reorganisation has been undertaken for this purpose, with the establishment of new and cancellation of some old ministries. Industrial management has been reorganised. The new Cabinet will be announced somewhat later, after electoral returns are available for all electoral districts.

The first session of the National Assembly reelected Robinson Nabulyato as its speaker. Kenneth Kaunda again appointed L. Lisulo the country's prime minister. Parliament will convene again on January 16, 1979.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH MOZAMBIQUE--An agreement has been signed in Maputo on the establishment of a Soviet-Mozambique satellite tracking station. The agreement provides for conducting joint scientific research as well as for training Mozambican specialists in astronomy. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 6 Dec 78 LD]

INDOCHINA

NATIONAL FRONT 'SOLE REPRESENTATIVE' OF KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE

LD181607Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Hanoi, 15 December, TASS--The people and revolutionary fighters of Kampuchea are experiencing joy and enthusiasm in connection with an important historic event--the creation of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS], which is leading the struggle for independence, freedom and genuine democracy, the KAMPUCHEAN NEWS AGENCY says in a commentary.

The front's bright ideals are causing panic in the camp of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. In order to conceal its provocative aims, which are at the service of the great-power and expansionist strategic designs of China's ruling circles and are aimed at continuing the war against Vietnam and the repressions against the Kampuchean people, the Phnom Penh regime slanderously states that Vietnam is carrying out aggression against Kampuchea. But the KNUFNS has been created. This front, and this front alone, is the sole representative of the people of Kampuchea. The Kampuchean people, rallied closely, are rising to overthrow the reactionary grouping. They have begun the struggle to create a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral Kampuchea.

VIETNAM AIMS TO ABOLISH CLASS EXPLOITATION IN COUNTRYSIDE

LD181908Y Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, December 18, TASS--The SRV Government decided to eliminate all forms of capitalist land ownership and issued a decree on land-use in the countryside of southern Vietnam.

The measures envisaged are being carried out with aim of completely doing away with class exploitation in the countryside, and drawing the peasant masses onto the road of collective labour.

For the realisation of this course, the document notes, explanatory work must be carried out so that persons having large tracts of land would voluntarily sell their extra holdings to the state. People's committees are empowered to confiscate excessive holdings from those owners who were civil servants, officers, of functionaries of reactionary parties under the puppet regime.

The decree stipulates that lands confiscated or bought out will be handed over by the state to landless peasants and also to those who have gone over from the industrial and commercial sectors to the sphere of agricultural production. After the land problems are resolved, the creation of agricultural cooperatives or production associations must be started. The decree notes that these measures are to be completed by the middle of 1979.

Another decree has also been promulgated concerning private owners of farm machines and mechanisms. It envisages that machines up to 25 horsepower in capacity shall be handed over to teams, associations, and agricultural cooperatives. Tractors with capacities above 25 horsepower shall be handed over to agricultural farm-machine associations that will operate under the leadership of people's committees.

NGUYEN DUY TRINH ENDS TALKS WITH JAPAN'S SONODA

LD181144Y Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, December 18, TASS--Negotiations between Nguyen Duy Trinh, vice-premier and foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Sunao Sonoda, foreign minister of Japan, have concluded here. In the course of two meetings, on December 14 and 18, the sides exchanged views on a wide range of international problems and on questions of bilateral relations.

Interviewed by Japanese Press

LD181734Y Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, December 18, TASS--The Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship and Cooperation Treaty is not a military alliance or a treaty directed against any third country. It fully corresponds to the needs of peace and security in Southeast Asia and the whole world, said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Duy Trinh.

The Vietnamese-Soviet treaty, he said in an interview to Japanese newspaper YOMIURI, fully accords with the principles of the international policy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam proclaimed by Ho Chi Minh. Being a socialist state, our country maintains close ties with the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries consolidating combat solidarity with them. In this light, the treaty reflects the ideals of international proletarian solidarity.

Nguyen Duy Trinh further noted that recently the Chinese leaders unleashed a campaign of slander against Vietnam with the aim of denigrating the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the international arena. An expression of these anti-Vietnamese manoeuvres is the master-minded by Peking so-called problem of ethnic Chinese in Vietnam.

In rebuffing Peking's calumny, he stressed, we wish at the same time the Chinese residing living [as received] in Vietnam to stay and continue a normal life. We are doing our best to enable them to take part in the socialist transformations in our country.

Referring to the situation in Kampuchea, Nguyen Duy Trinh pointed out that the recently created by the patriots United Front of National Salvation of Kampuchea is pursuing an independent policy. Vietnam supports the front because it strives to put an end to the border conflict and to maintain with us normal, goodneighbourly relations. The United Front of Kampuchea represents a factor of peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam has no territorial claims with regard to other countries, desirous of maintaining goodneighbourly relations with the states of South-East Asia, said Nguyen Duy Trinh.

GROMYKO CONGRATULATES SONODA, RECEIVES THANKS

LD181627Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--USSR Foreign Minister A. A. Gromyko has sent Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda a telegram of congratulations in connection with his reappointment to that post. In a reply telegram Sunao Sonoda expressed gratitude for the congratulations.

JAPANESE TU GENERAL COUNCIL DELEGATION HOLDS MOSCOW TALKS

LD182250Y Moscow TASS in English 1955 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 18, TASS--A delegation of the Japanese Trade Union General Council, SOHYO, led by T. Takahashi, SOHYO vice-chairman, has come to Moscow to attend a regular session of the Soviet-Japanese Trade Union Commission.

Today, Aleksey Shibayev, chairman of the USSR Trade Unions' Central Council had a talk with the Japanese delegation. During the talk, the two sides discussed issues of the international labour movement and bilateral Soviet-Japanese trade union links. The sides exchanged information on the activities of their trade union centres.

The talk was attended by Petr Pimenov, secretary of the USSR Trade Unions' Central Council, and other officials. The talk was held in a friendly atmosphere.

MONGOLIAN COMMUNICATIONS EXPANSION REPORTED

LD141705Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Text] A new radio station has been commissioned at the city of Altay (Mongolia). This is a great event for western Mongolia's half-million inhabitants. They now have the opportunity to receive programs broadcast by central radio. The Altay radio station is one of numerous communications installations being built in Mongolia with the Soviet Union's assistance.

A main radio relay line from Ulaanbaatar to Bayan-Olgiy, some 2,000 km long, is also being built. When it is commissioned in 1982 the reception of radio broadcasts will be improved and the inhabitants of remote districts in the Mongolian People's Republic will be able to watch central television programs. The capacity of telephone and telegraph channels is also being sharply increased.

RASHIDOV REPLIES TO CRITICISM OF UZBEK LEADERSHIP CADRES

LD1815O1Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 78 p 2 LD

[Article by Sh. Rashidov, first secretary of Uzbekistan CP Central Committee: "Increasing Exactingness"]

[Text] Readers in Uzbekistan received with interest the article "Not a Drop in the Ocean," published in PRAVDA 13 September. The article has been discussed by the republic's Central Committee Bureau. It was noted that in Uzbekistan many party, soviet and public organs and labor collectives are headed by politically mature workers possessing theoretical training and rich practical experience. They work effectively and enjoy great prestige. Their typical qualities are party principledness, competence, a respectful attitude to those around them and the ability to work with people.

At the same time there are still many leaders in the republic who try to resolve their tasks by flagrantly bureaucratic methods. They create nervousness and fuss in collective work and often spoil people's attitudes.

The Uzbekistan CP Central Committee considers that in selecting and placing cadres, obkoms, gorkoms and raykoms do not always study their business, political and moral qualities in sufficient depth. In assessing leaders they sometimes fail to consider the level of their authority among the masses and their ability to live and work in harmony with people. As the article correctly points out, certain party committees do not go deeply into leaders' style and methods of work.

Thus Kh. Sharafutdionov, first secretary of Denauskiy Raykom, had a seemingly diligent approach of fulfilling his duties, but could not acquire authority among the aktiv. This was because he did not combine high exactingness with a respectful attitude toward people but displayed arrogance. In the end all this created an atmosphere of psychological incompatibility in relations between the raykom first secretary and the rayon aktiv.

In its resolution the Bureau of the republic's CP Central Committee reminded leaders at all levels of the need to constantly observe Leninist principles in work with people and to master the art of party leadership, a model of which is provided by the activity of the CPSU Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev personally, as well as by his rich experience as set out in the books "Malaya Zemlya," "Rebirth" and "The Virgin Land." Obkoms, gorkoms and raykoms must strive to insure that every leader persistently acquire modern, scientifically founded management methods; maintains constant close links with the working people; takes their experience and knowledge into account on a day-to-day basis and, on this basis, insures the successful fulfillment of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions.

The party committee's attention is drawn to the need to inculate high moral qualities in leaders--industriousness, honesty, modesty, cordiality, politness and tact. The ability to listen to frank criticism of oneself, and to draw the correct conclusions means a great deal for a leader. Nor must a self-critical assessment of one's own shortcomings be avoided.

The republic's CP Central Committee made it incumbent on all party committees to be more exacting toward workers who display callousness, bureaucratism and arrogance.

Transfers of leaders who have lost authority to equivalent or more responsible work must not be permitted.

The discussion of the duty and calling of party workers and leaders begun in the pages of PRAVDA is continuing everywhere in the republic party committees and primary party organizations.

AZERBAIJAN CP PLENUM HITS OIL INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE

LD181447Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 78 p 2 LD

[PRAVDA correspondent L. Tairov report: "Azerbaijan: Exactingly, Purposefully"]

[Excerpts] Baku--"Azerbaijan is making great strides!"--That high assessment as well as the advice and recommendations given by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, during his recent visit to Baku, have been adopted as a militant action program. The republic's working people are fully determined to work better tomorrow than today and to implement more successfully the plans of the 25th CPSU Congress.

The Azerbaijan CP Central Committee plenum held 14 December to discuss the republic party organizations' tasks in fulfilling the CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum decisions and the directions set forth in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speeches focused its attention on the problems of making fuller use of intensive factors of economic development and existing reserves.

G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee, delivered the report. He cited convincing figures and facts testifying to the fruitful way in which the party's socioeconomic program is being implemented in the republic.

Taking into account the importance of the CPSU Central Committee plenum's directions regarding the further development of the gas and oil industry, it is proposed to take more energetic measures to raise the efficiency of the Azneft and Kaspmorneftegazprom associations, which have fallen more than 3 million tons short of their targets since the beginning of the 5-year plan. Important reserves such as making maximum use of raw material resources and sharply reducing losses of oil and petroleum products must be brought into play in petroleum refining. It is important to accelerate the introduction into production of many proposals by Azerbaijan's scientists.

The plenum seriously criticized the enterprises that continue sometimes to produce poor-quality output. The reasons were cited: low production standards, rush work, crash work and the disruption of smooth working.

The situation in capital construction, transportation and services, where there are many serious shortcomings and unsolved problems, was also considered in detail.

Lately the republic's agriculture has firmly embarked on intensification and has been developing at a high and stable rate, particularly in the 10th 5-Year Plan.

However, here too there are many unutilized reserves, as B. Kevorkov, first secretary of Nagorno-Karabakhskiy Obkom; T. Orudzhev, first secretary of Agdamskiy Raykom' G. Agayev, chairman of the Azerbaijan Kolkhoz and others noted.

Anxious mention was made of the continuing lag and low productivity of livestock-raising. The task of providing the republic's population with meat and dairy produce of its own production is being resolved only slowly. Fodder production is unsatisfactory and there are considerable losses of output.

Talking about the tasks of ideological work, the speakers drew particular attention to imparting greater militancy and purposefulness to it. The main thing is not the quantity of measures but their quality, effectiveness and link with labor collectives' vital concerns. Cultural figures must react more effectively to the processes taking place in the republic. Pointing out that local newspapers have reduced the acuteness of their criticism, the speakers proposed that materials exposing bureaucrats, thieves and bribetakers be published and that the effectiveness of each critical article be insured.

The task was set of relying more on the strength of primary party organizations in all organizational and educational work.

The plenum largely approved the drafts of the 1979 Azerbaijan SSR economic and social development plan and budget.

The plenum expressed firm confidence that the communists and all the working people of Azerbaijan, rallied closely around the Leninist party, will insure the implementation of the CPSU Central Committee November Plenum decisions and will mark 1979 with new successes in all sectors of communist building.

LEADERS NAMED AS CANDIDATES TO CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION

LD190404Y [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1600 GMT on 18 December reports that nominations began today for candidates to the Central Election Commission, which will organize the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet of the 10th convocation. The names put forward so far as candidates are, among others: Kovalenok, USSR pilot-cosmonaut; Kapitonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Shibayev, chairman of the AUCCTU; Sokolov, second secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party; Makeyev, second secretary of the Moscow Gorkom; Pastukhov, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; Logunov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Chakovskiy, editor-in-chief of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.

KUNAYEV ADDRESSES KAZAKH CP SESSION ON SHORTCOMINGS

LD190044Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A plenum of the Kazakh CP Central Committee opened in Alma-Ata today. Those taking part are discussing the tasks of the republican party organization in implementing the CPSU Central Committee November 1978 Plenum and the points by Comrade Brezhnev put forward in his speech at that plenum.

Comrade Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Kazakh CP Central Committee, who is at the moment delivering his report, has noted that in recent years industry, agriculture, science and culture have developed rapidly in the republic. Farmers have twice in recent years given the country more than 1 billion puds of grain crops.

Chief attention in Comrade Kunayev's report is devoted to an analysis of the shortcomings pointed out by the November CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

Kazakh Supreme Soviet Opens

LD190650Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A session of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet opened in Alma-Ata today. Deputies are to discuss and confirm the republic's state plan and budget for next year. The draft provides for a faster rate of development in the oil refining, coal, gas, chemical, meat and milk, food and mixed fodder industries and also in machine building and metalworking. The task set by Comrade Brezhnev, to bring the average yield of grain crops up to 20 quintals per hectare, remains the primary one for farmers. Next year is the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the development of virgin and disused land in Kazakhstan. During the 10th 5-Year Plan, the grain sales to the state by the republic have exceeded 1 billion puds twice, in 1976 and 1978.

Rashidov Reports to Uzbek CP

LD190654Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The results of the November CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the tasks of the republican party organization in light of its decisions and the speech at the plenum by Comrade Brezhnev are being discussed by a Central Committee plenum which opened in Tashkent today. Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the republican CP Central Committee, has delivered a report. He reported that Uzbek industry fulfilled the tasks of 3 years of the 5-year plan a month ahead of schedule. Despite difficult weather, more than 5.5 million tons of cotton have been harvested.

NEW UKRAINIAN MEAT, DAIRY INDUSTRY MINISTER APPOINTED

AU151551Y Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 9 Dec 78 p 1 AU

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to appoint Comrade Vitaliy Konstantinovich Solomakha Ukrainian SSR minister of the meat and dairy industry.

[Signed] A. Vatchenko, chairman, and Ya. Kolotukha, secretary, of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium

Kiev, 8 December 1978

V.K. Solomakha, born in 1931, CPSU member since 1953, has a higher education. He worked as veterinarian, was elected rayispolkom chairman, Kuybyshevskiy Raykom first secretary in Zaporozhaskaya Oblast, and Zaporozhskiy Oblispolkom first chairman, since 1974 Ukrainian deputy minister of sovkhozes, and since 1975 Ukrainian first deputy minister of sovkhozes.

Former Minister Removed

AU151552Y Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 9 Dec 78 p 5 AU

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade A.A. Sennikov of the duties of Ukrainian SSR minister of the meat and dairy industry.

'ALL-UNION ORGANIZATIONS' BLAMED FOR KOLYMA GES DELAYS

LD1814417 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Dec 78 p 2 LD

[Article by S. Shaydurov, first secretary of Magadanskiy Obkom: "Kolyma's Energy"]

[Excerpts] The country's economy is proceeding to improve the deployment of production forces and make more rational use of labor, electric power, fuel and raw material resources. The 25th CPSU Congress decisions provide for a further buildup of the economic potential of Siberia and the Far East and the enhancement of their role in industrial production.

We are seeking to develop the natural resources of Kolyma and Chukotka comprehensively and at an accelerated tempo. In recent years geological prospecting for minerals has become more efficient. New capacities are being commissioned; airports and seaports are being reequipped and expanded; additional hectares of arable land are being wrested from the permafrost; cities and settlements are growing and becoming more attractive.

Shock detachments play an important role in any offensive. The present stage in developing the wealth of the far north and in the radical reorganization of the everyday life of the people who are taming the subpolar and polar regions can be compared to an offensive. And the power industry workers are undoubtedly the shock detachment here.

The point is that the mining industry of Kolyma and Chukotka is an extremely energy-intensive sector. Having adequate electric power means opening the way to a rapid increase in the extraction of coal, tin, tungsten and other metals in which the northern land is so abundant. Moreover, in these severe conditions where manpower is so costly, the power-worker ratio assumes special significance.

It should be emphasized that thanks to the party's and government's daily attention to problems of the northeast, the energy pulse of this industrial zone is beating ever more strongly. Thermal power stations have been built, are in operation, and are being expanded. The fleet of "northern light" floating power stations has been increased. The Bilibino AES--the first AES in the Soviet polar region--has become the pride of the workers in the Far East.

Nevertheless, we consider the decision on building the Kolyma GES to be a key decision for the development of the power industry in our northern regions. This is because all the thermal power stations--large and small--operate on locally-mined coal or else on diesel fuel which has to be brought in from outside. This is a very, very costly business. The high cost of each kilowatt hour is a heavy burden on the prime cost of the industrial output produced. The problems of fuel, transport and manpower are interwoven in a tight knot. The situation is made many times more complicated by the difficulties and high cost of building and maintaining housing and consumer service establishments here for the transport workers employed in shipping fuel.

Meanwhile the power shortage is growing more serious year by year. There is not enough electric power even for expanding the volume of mining work; thus it is impossible to insure the stable extraction of minerals.

Calculations show that in the far north it is many times more advantageous to obtain energy from the rivers than other sources. [paragraph continues]

On the Kolyma River alone it is possible to create a whole series of hydroelectric stations--at least five. But the most difficult task is to build the first GES, to gain a foothold, form a collective of hydroelectric power station builders and develop a powerful base. This most difficult and, it may be said, crucial period will quickly recede into history. During the present 5-year plan the Kolyma River will begin producing energy.

The time is approaching for the start of the installation of the basic power equipment. And our anxiety as to how the Sinegorye orders are being fulfilled is perfectly understandable. Unfortunately, the information received from the planning organs causes us a sense of alarm and bewilderment: We have been told that the hydroelectric power units and transformers for the Kolyma GES will not be produced in 1979. Consequently they will not reach here within the set deadline. Moreover, the financing of the construction is not being fully insured and equipment deliveries are being held up.

Only 2 years remain before the commissioning of the station. The scale of work at the Kolyma GES must be doubled at least. A thorough analysis of reserves was conducted recently at the obkom plenum, which discussed the tasks of further improving party leadership of the GES' installation. In particular it was noted that the equipment available at the construction site is still not being used to full capacity, the progressive method of the team subcontract is being introduced slowly, and the verification of decision execution is badly organized.

At the same time it should be noted that the construction site's reserves are not that great, while Magadanskaya Oblast's potential is also restricted. The Kolyma GES required a great deal of concern from all-union organizations, above all the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification. The question of shortening the deadlines for equipment production awaits an efficient solution by the USSR Gosplan together, of course, with the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the Ministry of Power Machinebuilding and the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry. To fulfill the party congress's instruction concerning the commissioning of the first machines, the equipment must be delivered to the construction site no later than the first quarter of 1980. Only if this is fulfilled will the installation be completed and the Kolyma GES be commissioned in the 10th 5-year Plan.

In installing the GES the construction workers are also seeking not to overlook their final aim of supplying energy to the consumers. The new power transmission lines and transformer substations are all part of the sphere of activity of the Kolymgesstroy mechanized column. Unfortunately, here too delays have been observed. The state of the Magadanenergo rayon energy administration grid has ceased to accord with the requirements of the time. Essentially this grid--both in the central regions of Kolyma and on Chukotka--needs modernization and development. It is difficult for just one column to cope with these tasks.

The installation of the first-born of northern hydroelectric power engineering is inextricably linked with the future of the entire northeast. The technical and economic blueprints for the next stage of the station have already been compiled. By using experience and the production base, this station could be constructed far more rapidly--in 7-8 years--and at considerably lower cost. But for this its installation must be begun no later than 1980. Thus it is time that the question of starting preparatory work on the installation of the second GES, even if it has to be via the estimates and financing for the first, was put on the agenda of the USSR Gosplan and the Ministry of Power and Electrification.

We also believe that it is expedient to start erecting a cement plant, the elaboration of whose technical and economic blueprints is nearing completion.

It is not easy to kindle a mighty electrical sun in a remote and cold region. Many difficulties must be overcome and much has to be experienced for the first time. But the experience which has been acquired confirms that the construction of a GES in this region is economically advantageous and justified.

BREZHNEV CONGRATULATES KUYBYSHEV METALLURGICAL WORKS

ID061740Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 6 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has sent greetings to the workers, engineers, technicians and office staff, and party, trade union and Komsomol organizations of the Kuybyshev Lenin metallurgical works and the Kuybyshev Promstroy trust, the USSR Ministry of Industrial Construction and organizations of the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work. It says:

Dear Comrades: I learned with great satisfaction from your report what has been accomplished as a result of the reconstruction of the works as well as the increase and mastery of capacities for producing rolled sheet metal. Your experience again convincingly shows how enormous reserves of production efficiency make it possible to realize the creative quest and initiative of people. It is very significant that the reconstruction of the works was carried out without interrupting production and without reducing the output of rolled metal. This was accomplished together with the organization of a new complex to manufacture lacquered strip for the preservation of food products essential to our national economy.

Sheet rolling production today provides 1.8 times more sheet aluminium without an increase in the number of workers or production areas. New plant capacity for lacquered strip has been mastered ahead of schedule. As a result of the selfless labor of the workers, engineers, technical and office staff of the works, the collectives of the construction and assembly organizations, the great organizational and mass political work of party, trade union and Komsomol organizations, and broad socialist competition, a great contribution has been made to the fulfillment of the tasks laid down by the 25th CPSU Congress for raising work efficiency and quality.

It is particularly gratifying that the collective of the works is not stopping at what has been achieved, but is today continuing the struggle to raise production efficiency on the basis of technical reconstruction and is setting new tasks to triple the output of sheet aluminium in the next 5-year plan compared to the initial capacity of the works.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev expressed confidence that the collective will confirm by their deeds the practicability of the tasks set before them and will gladden the homeland with new successes. I wish you, dear comrades, to raise the banner of socialist competition even higher for efficiency and quality of work, new success in work, good health and personal happiness.

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 18 DEC

LD190726Y [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0130 GMT on 18 December reports that a large agricultural oasis has been founded near the shifting sands in south Kazakhstan. It adds that the first irrigated stretch of land with an area of 900 hectares was put to use today and that since the beginning of the 10th 5-Year Plan, new water reservoirs and canals, capable of irrigating more than 200,000 hectares, have been built in Kazakhstan.

At 0200 GMT the radio reports that Kazakh farms have been planting first class summer crops for a number of years now, adding that this year also such strains as the Saratovskaya-29, Kharkovskaya-46 and others have been planted. It says that having sold to the state more than 1 billion puds of grain, the republic's farmers have procured enough summer grain seeds, and that more wheat was procured than envisaged by the plan. The radio adds that 96 percent constituted the strong and hard type of wheat. It recalls that this year twice as much of this wheat as planned was sold to the state. The radio goes on to report that Kazakh farms began preparing seeds (?late) in the fall, with at the moment 95 percent of the seeds having been sorted.

At 0700 GMT the radio reports that Tadzhik farmers have completed the harvest, having produced 908,000 tons of cotton, fulfilling procurement plans by 105.2 percent. It adds that plans for sale to the state of grain, vegetables, potatoes, fruit, grapes, cocoons and other produce have also been fulfilled. The fields are now being prepared for the next harvest.

At 1100 GMT the radio reports that over 8.5 million tons of cotton have been procured in the country to date, with over half gathered by machine. It adds that the cotton-picking is being completed in difficult weather conditions, with rain and, in places, snow. Four of the six cotton-growing republics have so far fulfilled the plan. For the first time, 758,400 tons of particularly valuable fine-fiber varieties have been sold to the state. The radio says preparations for the spring are now underway with fields being cleared of cotton stubble, plowing being carried out, and irrigation networks being cleaned.

The radio also reports that two new varieties of spring wheat of local selection have been tested in Kurganskaya Oblast--Zauralskaya and Vera--obtained from crossing spring and winter types. They have a high yield, producing 60 quintals of grain per hectare in individual areas. The new varieties are drought-resistant and resist flattening.

The radio adds that in Tselinogradskaya Oblast 65 percent of the tractors and about 50 percent of the grain-harvesting combines have been repaired. This is much more than at the same time last year, the radio says.